

St Ives Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 06 21 c

At St Ives Town Council the Mayor said they would like to offer an address of congratulation to her Majesty on this memorable occasion (her Diamond Jubilee), and read an address which he proposed such be illuminated and presented at a cost not exceeding five guineas. Mr Kiddle asked what her Majesty did with these address and if she saw them. He was as loyal as anybody in the room but he could not see his way to spend five guineas for an illuminated address. It was agreed it be engrossed on parchment in the Town Clerk's office.

1897 06 02

St Ives was visited on Saturday evening by a thunderstorm of short duration. At Mr B. King's house in Church-street the chimney was struck and bricks scattered in all direction. The current made a great hole in the roof and smashed all the ornaments and a water jug in the bedroom. A large picture in a gilt frame looks as though it has been rescued from fire, all the gilt being scorched and burnt off. This picture hung directly over the head of the bed in which Mrs King and her child were.

1897 06 11

St Ives jubilee address, p3

1897 08 23

The subject of the interview in this week's "Cable" is Mr C.P. Tebbutt, who is a prominent member of the County Council, manager of Foster's Bank at St Ives, and farms about 550 acres of land, within a mile of Bluntisham railway station. On the question of education he is "very opposed to the pressure exercised by the Education Department in respect of keeping boys at school. I favour a half-time and a half-day system. I have been a manager of the British School in Bluntisham for many years and I am strongly impressed with the deleterious effect the compulsory classes have had upon the agricultural community. Boys who are kept in school until they are 14 years old never make the farm labourers they would have made if they had left school at an earlier period"

1897 09 09

St Ives sailing club, p3

1897 09 10

St Ives Town Council Surveyor had examined the gas pipes running by the sewer. In one place the gas pipe went right across the sewer, obstructing about one fourth of it. In another case the gas pipe ran diagonally with the sewer, obstructing it. He did not think the Gas Company were the chief sinners in the matter. He thought it was the town. In some cases the sewers were laid over the gas pipes

1897 10 11

Before the purchase of the Ouse navigation by Mr Simpson the locks above St Ives were in a bad state of repair, through leakage of gates etc. Barges going up the river to St Ives were obliged to make a "pen" (or level water at the locks) by means of planks they carried with them for the purpose. These planks fitted into grooves in the brickwork in the sides of the locks and answered the purpose of "gates" for the lower end of the lock. Then the upper gate would be opened and the water levelled to the planks. When this was done the barge was taken out of the lock, the gates closed and the planks taken out. This, of course, was a slow process, through the leakage between the planks but still it was possible to get through. Now Mr Simpson refuses to allow the lock at St Ives to be used in the manner for which it was constructed, and has closed the locals above St Ives altogether

1897 10 12

St Ives Michaelmas Fair was visited by a great number of people. They came in by crowds from the railway station, in many a slap-up conveyance and every other shade of vehicle. Monday is looked upon as the business day of the fair. The streets near the Market - Cromwell-place area were utilised to stand the horses for sale and the adjacent side streets were used as exercise yards in which to show the paces of the animals amid much cracking of whips, shouting, and whistling, and the display of

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pink chintz flags used at the end of a stick to frighten the animals. A few were very good horses, but most of them were not so good - to put it mildly

1897 10 13

Warning – St Ives fair, p2-3 & 14th p4

1897 10 221

The Rev R.W. Close called attention to the increase of vagrancy and the number of vagrant children who had gone through the three Poor Law Unions in Huntingdonshire. The children in the Workhouses were well kept and well brought up, but the condition of the vagrant children when brought into the Workhouse was very bad. Their health suffered, their clothes were often wet, and they were dirty. The meeting at St Ives proposed that Unions should have the power to take such children away from the control of their parents, provided that magistrates could annul the resolution on the application of the parents after a hearing

1897 11 03

St Ives fishing, p2

1897 11

At St Ives rural district council meeting Mr Barlow said that the Fenstanton pump was only about eight feet from the pond and every time cattle or horses went to the pond the water was stirred up and became black, and this water found its way into the well. If they cleaned out the well a dozen times they would never made him believe the water in that well would be good because the water would percolate through to the well

1897 11

The annual working men's dinner of the St Ives Quoits Club was held at the New Crown, St Ives. Thirty-nine members sat down to an excellent spread. They were told some people carping at the game of quoits but if they kept such honorary members as Mr Fellowes, Mr Ruston (the mayor) and Mr R.J. Linsell, they would resuscitate the good old game of quoits in the county. The Chairman proposed the health of the visiting clubs including the Durham Ox at Cambridge

1897 11 25

The water in the river at St Ives is now exceedingly low, and the stench from it is very bad indeed. At the bottom of Priory-road it is enough to breed a fever and people can hardly bear it. It is hoped the approaching meeting of the Hunts. County Council will take the matter in hand. Meanwhile we would suggest to Mr Stimpson, that for the sake of the public health, he should shut the gates at the Staunch, and keep enough water in the river to prevent any outbreak

1897 12 02

Shortly after 12 o'clock this morning the shop of Mr Norman, watchmaker, close to the Sheep Market, St Ives, was found to be on fire. It is the centre one of three buildings, the White Hart and the Falcon being on either side. The howling of a dog in the shop awoke the inmates, or they would probably have been burnt in their beds. Mr John Anderson of the White Hart ran round to the firemen's houses and the brigade, with the apparatus, were quickly on the spot. The fire burnt its way into the White Hart and penetrated every room in the Falcon except the front room downstairs. The dog which gave the alarm was found dead in the shop by the firemen

1898 01 21

The first annual meeting of the St Ives and District Nursing Association was held in the Corn Exchange, St Ives. The number of cases attended have been 117 of which 71 were in St Ives, 19 in Fenstanton and 27 in Hemingford. Of these eight have died, five have been removed to hospital and 90 have recovered. Twenty of the cases were accidents, several of them serious, and of such a nature as to make removal to the hospital difficult, so that the patients derived much benefit from skilled nursing in their own homes.

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1898 01 25

A very large company assembled at the Golden Lion Hotel, St Ives, when three licenced houses were put up for sale by auction. The first house offered was the Pelican Inn, Warboys. It was fully licenced and well fitted up with a frontage to the High Street. It was sold for £1,000, it being fully expected to realize at least £1,500. Next was the Three Horseshoes in Woodhurst, brought for £500. The freehold beerhouse in Fenstanton known as the Prince's Feathers with the cottage adjoining was sold for £500 to Mr G.G. Wheeler as agent for Mr Burt, the well-known Fenstanton brewer
St Ives agriculture meeting

1898 04 01

Mr Cecil Johnstone, who has been postmaster of St Ives for so many years, has been promoted to the postmaster of Wellingborough. Mr Johnstone has been postmaster for 15 years, and succeeded his father, who held the office for 30 years. Mr Johnstone's departure is regretted by all St Ives, and especially by the employees at the Post Office.

1898 04 04

About a thousand people assembled on the Quay, St Ives, to witness the public baptism of two young women in the river Ouse. One of the oldest and best-known chapels in the town is the Crown Yard Baptist chapel. The congregation attending there pin their faith to immersion in baptism. Unlike most chapels of the same persuasion, they have not their place of worship fitted up for this form of baptism; hence the adjournment to the river. The members of the congregation made their way to the river side, a good many of them being permitted to go inside the railings surrounding the Masonic Temple, from which a good view of the baptism was obtained. They found a large concourse of people assembled, the bridge itself was crowded with people; out of the windows protruding heads viewed the scene while on the other side of the stream a good many people had collected.

1898 04 07

A shepherd named William Facer, of Houghton, has had a remarkable experience in St Ives this week. On Monday, like a good many more in this neighbourhood, he attended St Ives market. On Tuesday morning he discovered he had lost two £5 notes. He enquired at different places if the precious bits of paper had been seen. Among the places visited was Mr Hewson's, the pork butcher in Merryland. On Tuesday a boy swept out the shop. He picked up the bits of paper about the floor, and was about to light the fire with them, when his attention was attracted to two pieces by their crispness. He smoothed out the crumpled bits of paper and lo! they were two £5 notes. The note must have lain on the floor a while scores of people went in and out and did not see them. Facer may thank his stars the notes were found by good honest folk, and also that they were not burnt without being noticed
Wisbech Union brewery, p3

1898 05 10

St Ives drunk, *

1898 05 13

A terrific explosion occurred at the shop of Mr Ruston, ironmonger, St Ives. The centre part of the warehouse was reduced to ruins, the front windows of the shop blown out, and great damage done to the surrounding buildings. Two assistants are missing, and it is supposed they are buried amidst the ruins of the warehouse. The windows of the shops across the street are also blown in. Messrs Foster's bank on the side nearest Mr Ruston's has every window broken. Even two side windows of the Corn Exchange, where a dog show is being held, are broken. No one knows yet how the explosion was caused, but it is thought one of the men must have taken a light to the gunpowder safe.

1898 05 14

St Ives explosion inquest, p3

1898 05 18

Two young men, the victims of the awful explosion at St Ives, were buried on Sunday afternoon. One gentleman says he stood at the cemetery gates and counted 1,750 persons enter. People flocked in from all the villages around, and it is questionable if such a large number has attended a funeral in the down before. This shows how the lamentable affair has stirred the heart of the people of the town. Both were members of the Wesleyan Sunday's School, and the distressed parents are greatly comforted in the thought that they were such good-living lads

1898 05 31

St Ives was all alive on the occasion of the Whitsuntide fair. The show of horses in East Street and the surrounding streets was fully up to the average, and many of them were very fine animals. The stables in the town were crowded with horses and the influx of dealers was great. Many London dealers went the rounds of the stables on Sunday and completed their purchases on Monday morning, so that a large number of the best of the animals were not shown in the fair at all. This is the first day of the reopening of the store pig market, but we believe the supply was not a large one. There are scarcely any shows, and only a few swings and sweet stalls. The attendance of people was large

1898 06 24

Woodhurst was all astir on the occasion of the Church feast. The principal Street was gaily decorated with flags, and in a field close to the Church was a round-about, swings, coconut shying, and sweet stalls which were well patronised. A large number were present from the surrounding villages, and a strong contingent from St Ives who journeyed over in waggonettes, traps, and all sorts of vehicles. Bicyclists were also in strong evidence and a few even tramped the distance.

1898 07 15

St Ives drains, p3

1898 07 30

St Ives river, p3

1898 08 12

St Ives public pump *, police & council

1898 08 18

St Ives regatta, p4

1898 08 24

Messrs Dilley and son, auctioneers, offered for sale the whole of the stock-in-trade, machinery, coals, fittings etc of the "Cromwell" Engineering Works, St Ives, by direction of Messrs Fowell and son, who are dissolving partnership. There was a large company present, buyers coming from Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and all the engineering centres, as well as a crowd of local purchasers. There were 530 lots and the sale occupied a considerable time. The scrap iron fetched a record price, one large heap of old cast iron realising £51. The plant and machinery fetched a good price. The freehold premises comprising an extensive foundry, with engineer's workshop and three plots of building land adjoining the Great Eastern Railway were also sold

1898 08 26

Mr Horatio Wadsworth, mineral water manufacturer, of Bridge Street, St Ives, applied for a licence to sell bottled beer in quantities not less than a dozen half pint bottles at a time. He was the owner of an excise licence to sell bottled beer and this was simply an extension of that licence. He had every facility for bottling beer and was now bottling the beer of a firm in this county up to five or six thousand bottles. He intended to bottle local beer from Jenkins and Jones if he got the licence. He would be the only bottler of beer in St Ives. It did not interfere with the retailers of beer as he would not sell by single bottle or by the jug. He would send out the bottled beer at the same time that he sent out soda water and ginger beer

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1898 08 29

Funeral Ald King, St Ives, p3

1898 09 08

St Ives Guardians bread, p4

1898 09 09

At St Ives Town council Mr Ruston said that it was desirable something be done to avoid the nuisance which arose through the Michaelmas fair being held on the market place. There was a great nuisance caused by the smoke from the caravans, and the stench which arose from their refuse. It would be a very good thing if they could have the fair held outside the town. He did not see why they should encourage "riff raff"; they ought to preserve the tranquillity of the town. The Mayor thought that if the horse fair was held in the overflow market instead of in the back streets it would be an alteration which one could not very well object to

1898 09 17

At an inquiry at St Ives the East Hunts Water Company said that for several days there was no supply to the taps. If they erected stand pipes it would be detrimental to their company as their 116 customers would go to the stand pipe for their drinking supply and use other water for cleaning purposes. The medical officer of health said that the pumps had been closed in 1893 as they were polluted with sewage and notices placed on the pumps would be insufficient to prevent people drinking the water. The Vicar said the river was so low that it had prevented a large number of persons from getting the water from the river for sanitary purposes

1898 12 09

As the Mail cart which runs between Huntingdon and Cambridge was proceeding through Hemingford Abbots the horse stumbled and fell on the granite which has recently been laid on the road, and cut its leg so badly that it could not proceed. The driver tried to borrow a horse to continue his journey. Colonel Dougal very kindly lent one of his nags and then his groom had to drive the Mail cart to St Ives where it arrived nearly an hour behind time. Other arrangements were made for continuing the journey to Cambridge

1898 12 19

St Ives tossed by cow, p3

1899 02 11

Samuel Kisby Breese of the firm of coal merchants, St Ives, told the story of his career and ultimate bankruptcy. He had started when seven years old and commenced as partner to his brother 20 years ago. His father had died in 1840 and his mother carried on the business. When she died they took it over. He did not think the business was solvent then. When the navigation of the Ouse was stopped it cost them about £100 a year. They lost thirteen horses and another time three barges were sunk. They were laden with wheat and they had to pay £50 damage

1899 04 08

The annual vestry was held in at St Ives when there was a large attendance of church people, and also a number of nonconformists. It was expected there would be some "life" infused into the proceedings owing to the usual printed notices not having been issued, no notices placed on the chapel doors, and the time and place of the meeting had been altered. Those who went with the object of enjoying the "fun" were not disappointed. Mr Osbourne said they were on the eve of another change of vicar. These changes had come more frequently than some of them wished.

1899 04 14

An artist, residing at Hemingford Grey petitioned for divorce. In 1896 he took a house for the summer at St Ives and his wife became acquainted with the co-respondent who bore a bad character in the

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neighbourhood with regard to his conduct with ladies. Later on he heard rumours about the village regarding respecting his wife's conduct and she left next day. A few days after there was a great commotion, effigies of her and the co-respondent being burned opposite the house.

1899 05 04

St Ives Vestry – reply, p3

1899 05 17

Queen Cromwell & St Ives, p3 *

1899 05 18c

Sir. I learn that St Ives town council has resolved to commemorate Cromwell with a statue worthy of him and the town. My object is to refer to the disloyalty and meanness manifested to our good Queen in 1897 on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee when it was urged that some fitting memorial should be erected in the town to perpetuate her reign. But it was not to be, there was money, but no loyalty. There are two opinions of Cromwell, but there can be no two opinions of our most gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria – Elliott Odams

1899 08 10

Friendly rowing, sculling and water polo matches were held between St Ives and Oundle Rowing Clubs. In the four-oar race St Ives had the narrow boat, which again sustained her character as the worst boat of the two, having never yet carried the winning crew. St Ives No.2 lost his oar repeatedly, owing to a faulty rowlock and it was not because of faulty rowing that they were beaten by three lengths.

1899 08 14

St Ives injury cart, p2

1899 09 30

St Ives burglary, p3

1899 10 12

St Ives council recommended that the fire engine, purchased 27 years ago, be repaired at a cost of £48. A manual engine would be lent for use while the old one was being put in repair. Mr Smith asked if they were well paid when the engine went out of the town to a fire, as it was through being taken out that these repairs were necessary. The Mayor said £2 was paid each time it went out. Mr Ruston said this would not pay for the damage done to the hose alone

1899 10 31

A tramp was charged with refusing to do his allotted task at St Ives Workhouse. The Master (Mr Eversdell) set prisoner to pick 2½ lbs of oakum. He refused as he was suffering from asthma and being in a cell from which the dust from the oakum could not get away it would get upon his lungs and would be ill for weeks. He offered to do any other kind of out-door work. Magistrates said he could have seen the doctor and he would have to go to gaol for 14 days

1899 11 22

Huntingdon County Council sought a declaration that the River Ouse from above St Neots to below St Ives and thence to the sea, was a public navigable river and a common highway. Leonard Simpson claimed that it was his private property. He had the exclusive passage of vessels laden with merchandise and no one else should navigate any part of the river without a licence from him. The judge said the public were entitled to use it.

1899 12 22

St Ives patriotic entertainment, p2

1900 01 26

A large warehouse at St Ives occupied by Councillor Bullard, rod merchant, for the storage of osier rods caught alight. The fire when first discovered was raging in the middle story of the building at the end nearest the river but within a quarter of an hour the whole place was a mass of fire, owing to the inflammable nature of its contents. The whole of the woodwork was destroyed and nothing but the bare walls of the huge warehouse now remain. Mr Bullard's dwelling house was only separated by the roadway and his children were quickly taken from their beds, wrapped up in blankets, and removed to a place of safety.

1900 01 26

St Ives fire, p3 *

1900 02 19

Water flooded the Waits, Wellington Street and Priory Road, St Ives, to the depth of several feet and inhabitants have had to remove their household effects and live in the upper rooms. Residents in Woolpack Lane could only reach their dwellings by means of planks laid on packing boxes. The Union Workhouse at Hemingford Grey is flooded to a depth of several inches. Thirty-eight houses in Victoria Terrace are flooded and provisions have to be delivered by boat. The flood has passed by nearly an inch the height of the disastrous flood of 1877.

1900 04 09

St Ives fire, p2

1900 05 19

Newmarket was overjoyed to hear the good news of the relief of Mafeking and soon Union Jacks were flying from nearly every house and shop. At St Ives the news was heralded by the explosion of detonators and the streets were at once decorated. At Ely a crowd of enthusiasts marched round the streets carrying flags and at Saffron Walden bunting was displayed in all directions. There was a good congregation at Over church service consisting chiefly of men who came direct from their work.

1900 07 05

A fire occurred in a warehouse at Birt's Lane, St Ives, occupied by Mr Cole of the Golden Lion Hotel as a stable. The building stands between the Friends' Meeting House on one side and the Old Baptist Chapel (now used by Mr Ruston as an implement warehouse) on the other, whilst immediately opposite is Mr Warner's large leather-curing warehouse. The Fire Brigade was soon on the spot but the supply of water was very meagre. The whole of the contents of the building were destroyed, together with the roof and floors, only the outer walls being left standing.

1900 07 12

St Ives council, p2

1900 07 14

Star Yard pump, St Ives, p2

1900 07 16

St Ives pump, p2

1900 07 19

Sir – The birds of prey watching the interest of the East Hunts Water Company have made another pounce and seized the Star Yard pump at St Ives. A large number of persons who have been using this really good supply of water will have their supply cut off. A lad has been found to have diphtheria, and of course it must be this Star Yard pump, while the fact that a child died from the same disease in Filbert's Walk, where the East Hunts water is laid on, is entirely ignored! When all the pumps have been closed by the minions we shall be obliged to use the river, although it has just now a wonderful stench which that august body does not seem to trouble about – Ratepayer

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1900 07 25

Sir – Respecting the Star Yard pump at St Ives. I have drunk its water for many years and never heard the purity doubted before. It has always been the best, or as good as any in the town & it is a shame that the users should be deprived of the water unless by the inexorably exigencies of the health of the public warrant such a privation. If I know anything of my neighbours I believe they would rather have had their parish church seized and closed than their pump – Another Ratepayer

1900 08 10

At the meeting of St Ives Board of Guardians the Chairman referred to the evils of overcrowding attending the boarding-out of London children in the district. In several cases children were sleeping six in a bed in very unsuitable dwellings. The Board took no action on the matter.

1900 08 18

W.H. Smith & Son have recently made a great improvement at the St Ives railway station in opening their smart new bookstall, at which all publications can now be obtained. It promises an abundant selection of literature and should prove to be of great improvement to both the travelling public and the inhabitants of St Ives & district.

1900 08 28

Mr Walker, blacksmith, noticed that the thatched roof near the chimney of a house occupied by Bert Gentle, a journeyman carpenter, of Earith Road, Bluntisham, was on fire. The fire engine belonging to the village was accordingly manned and a wire despatched to St Ives for the engine and fire brigade. The Bluntisham engine, although an old-fashioned one, was placed in Mr Searle's farmyard and a constant volume of water was poured on to the farm buildings. Too much praise cannot be given to those who worked so indefatigably at the engine pump, for although the flames were driven by the wind to the adjoining thatched barn they succeeded in confining the conflagration to the house where it broke out.

1900 12 27

St Ives Ladysmith hero, p3

1901 01 15

St Ives fatality p3

1901 04 10

St Ives accident, p3

1901 05 16

A St Ives Inland Revenue officer was summoned for wilfully damaging a petition to the House of Commons against any alteration of the coronation oath. Mr Odams said he had produced the petition and allowed defendant to look at it. After doing so he refused to return it. The paper was returned some time after with many erasures and marks thereon. George Smith, tailor, said his name was on the petition. Defendant came to him and tried to frighten him out of his signature. He was not surprised that some had taken off their names, as defendant was in such a way that it would frighten anyone

1901 07 11

St Ives council heard the condition of the water was unsatisfactory. There was a sufficient supply in the pipes but it was thick and highly discoloured, so much so that consumers preferred not to use it. The Company was under obligation to supply pure, wholesome water, unless prevented by frost. They could proceed to arbitration as to whether the quality was unsatisfactory, and these would be expensive proceedings

1901 08 05

A man named Lock, who was at work on the land at Eriswell, was struck by lightning; his coat and waistcoat were much scorched, but, strange to say, the man was uninjured other than from the shock. About the same time a tree was struck near Wamil Hall, Mildenhall. At St Ives the rain poured down in torrents and the streets in many instances were flooded, owing to the drains not being able to carry off the extraordinary rush of water.

1901 11 15c

The London meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture passed a resolution in favour of giving farm labourers an interest in the land. The country that lost its agriculture was in a fair way to decay. Mr Tebbutt (St Ives) argued that the system adopted by the Duke of Bedford, who had built cottages on his estates for the use of the labourers, might be followed with great advantage. Country lads should spend the summer on the land and the winter at school.

1902 03 18

Sunday was a great day amongst the Roman Catholics of St Ives and neighbourhood. For the past two years they have worshipped in a wooden building in East Street. Now the former church of St Andrew, Cambridge, which was pulled down in 1894, has been secured, removed and re-erected at St Ives. The ceremony of laying the foundation stone took place in the presence of a vast concourse of people. The original church was somewhat deficient in light but this will be remedied by a clerestory light over the altar. The new building will be known as the Church of the Sacred Heart

1902 07 10

It is not a common feat to take down stone by stone, transport for fourteen miles and re-erect, practically without alteration, a solidly-built church capable of accommodating some 250 worshippers. That is what has been done with regard to the old Roman Catholic Church of St Andrew at Cambridge which has been removed to St Ives. The church is one of Pugin's earlier masterpieces and for 59 years it was in use in Cambridge. Then it was superseded by the magnificent new church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs. It was in danger of falling into a ruinous condition when the idea was conceived of transporting it to St Ives. # c.83

1903 01 20

Roads at St Ives assumed a dangerous condition for pedestrians, as a sharp frost had made them as slippery and smooth as glass. On Sunday morning one could skate from St Ives to Hilton on the main road, a distance of over four miles, without injury to the skates. Mr Thomas Phillips, wholesale fruiterer of the Market Hill slipped and sustained serious injury to his thigh. Mr Mason, the noted bone setter, of Wisbech, was sent for but could not come.

1903 09 05

The first sale of goods seized from the passive resisters of St Ives was held near the police station. None of the local auctioneers would accept the office so a Peterborough firm was imported to carry out the sale. The appearance of the auctioneer was the sequel for an uproar of groans, hooting and hissing. The first lot was a Brussels carpet and teapot, then came a sewing machine taken from Mr Money, tailor, to pay his arrears of 9d; this was run up to 30s. at which price it was knocked down to his employer. The sale closed amidst general uproar and the crowd made for the Cromwell Statue for a great demonstration.

1903 10 15

The marriage of the niece of General Sir John French was celebrated at Hemingford; in order to attend the ceremony the distinguished soldier passed through St Ives where the Mayor and Corporation extended him a civic welcome. The town has witnessed no such excitement since the unveiling of the Cromwell statue. Inhabitants decorated their houses with flags and bunting and a contingent of the Hunts Volunteers, the Fire Brigade and Boys' Brigade paraded with a brass band. Undergraduate behaviour, p3

1903 11 30

The unprecedented rainfall has taxed waterways beyond their capacity and floods are the natural consequence. In Cambridge boathouses have been invaded by the flood and the ferries have stopped plying. The flood has taken possession of Sheep's Green and part of Coe Fen while the Upper Granta has inundated many acres of pasture. In the fen country the dykes are full to overflowing and the land clogged with water, while in St Ives there are floods to a considerable depth covering hundreds of acres.

1904 07 04

St Ives memorial, p3

1905 05 24

The new St Ives Wesleyan Chapel replaces one which has served for nearly 90 years. New school premises were opened last September and have been used during the building of the new church. It occupies a larger area and is of a beautiful and commodious design. Mr F. Sidney Webber of London was the architect and F. Giddings of St Ives the builder. The door was unlocked by Mrs Gawthrop using a silver key. 05 05 24

1906 04 12

Ely should provide better accommodation for the horse and cattle fairs now held in the public streets. The horse fair was very dangerous and the cattle fair a nuisance in more ways than one. They did not want to take the fair away, just make it more respectable. If St Ives could do it, why not Ely? But what was the use of providing a field if they could not compel people to go to it. Councillors decided to take no action 06 04 12d & e

1906 06 30

Isaac Wilderspin, implement maker of Elsworth won first prize in an international competition for the best non-skid tyre for bicycles. The trial lasted five days with machines tested on a slanting asphalt track, besmeared with Thames mud and soft soap before being sent on a 300 mile run on the high road. It was ridden by W. Tolliday of the firm of Parker and Son, cycle makers of St Ives. Now he has invented a similar tyre for motor cars. 06 06 30a

1906 08 11

St Ives & Wadsworth, p4 *

1906 11 07

The Rector of Bluntisham told the court he found a window in the church had been broken and a contribution box taken from the wall. He knew there was a half-crown in it. The landlord of the Dog and Gun, Earith, said the defendant, a fine specimen of the Basuto race, had asked for a packet of Woodbines but could not afford a pint, and said he was going to St Ives. Fred Berridge, butcher of Chatteris, said he came to his shop and asked for threepennyworth of pieces and laid down a two-shilling piece. The man was arrested at the Old Hoops lodging house in Slade End but there was insufficient evidence to convict. 06 11 07a

1906 12 03

A terrible calamity has overtaken the St Ives Catholic community, the interior of whose beautiful Mission Church of the Sacred Heart was wrecked in one of the most astonishing cases of sacrilege ever recorded. A madman broke into the church by battering the door with a sledgehammer and then swept round the building like an avenging fury, raining blows on every object until there was nothing left to break. 06 12 03a & b

1906 12 08

St Ives church, p4

1907 01 16

A Fenstanton woman said an Over farmer had gone into the Dolphin, St Ives and alleged an improper connection between herself and a man who was a friend of the family who been in the habit of visiting her home. What made it worse was that she was within a week of her confinement and had not previously had a child for ten years. Now people she met in the street would not look at her.

Defendant claimed it was a joke but the words had been uttered angrily with his face thrust into the face of her husband. Five of the jury were in favour of £6 damages and five in favour of one farthing.

07 01 16 a & b

1907 03 26

The advent of the motor car has produced a new swindler replying on the average motor owner's lack of technical knowledge. One visited Dr Grove of St Ives with what he claimed was a patent sparking plug produced by a French firm which they wished prominent motorists to try. It cost 8s.9d (44p) but it had no name on it. Dr Grove called the police who discovered a bag containing twelve cheap plugs and a list of the names of all car owners in the neighbourhood. The man was convicted of obtaining money by false pretences and sentenced to three months' hard labour. 07 03 26a

1907 05 22

A man of prepossessing appearance walked into the principal hotel at St Ives mentioned in an American accent that he was Mr Jay Gould junior, the tennis champion, and challenged the best local player. He was lionised by all. But later he was interviewed by Inspector Storey about a bicycle stolen from Huntingdon. Instead of the comfortable bed at the Golden Lion hotel he had to be content with a cell at the police station where he was charge under the name of George Pettitt of London.

07 05 22b

1907 06 08

St Ives 'millionaire' – 07 06 08

1908 01 31

A strip of land near St Ives old bridge was the subject of an inquiry. Boys used to fish from it and bargees shortened their ropes there to go over the bridge. It had been considered as a site for public conveniences but instead they'd used the old toll house. Nobody had been stopped from using it. But now it would be needed to widen the bridge and Mr Horatio Wadsworth claimed a right to the surface of the land. 08 01 31

1908 02 07

St Ives bridge dispute, Wadsworth – 08 02 07b

1908 03 16

St Ives accident, William Dellar – 08 03 16a

1908 04 01

Licensing bill protest at St Ives – 08 04 01

1908 04 30

Serious flood, St Ives – 08 04 30b

1908 06 26

Dealers spoke very pessimistically of trade at the Horse Fair on Midsummer Common. There are periodic shows of horses at Cambridge and St Ives and that is where most of the good local horses go. Added to the scarcity of horses in the country, the trade on the Common is decreasing year by year and in a few years this old-established sale will be no more. CWN 08 06 26 p7

1908 07 31

The Junior Bursar of Trinity College was driving a lady in a tricar towards Hemingford Abbots when the brakes failed and he crashed into the back of a farm cart with considerable violence, the lady being hit on the chest. A passing motor cyclist raced off to St Ives for assistance and Dr Percy Rose arrived on the scene by motor cycle quickly followed by Inspector Gale and Pc Deighton in Mr Parker's motor car. 08 07 31

1908 10 13

A serious collision occurred at St Ives. Mr F. Clarke, furniture dealer, was driving his horse in a trap when it became unmanageable and bolted. In taking the Olive Road corner the runaway collided with Mr Denton's trap of which the shaft was broken off. It then turned completely over and Mr Clarke was thrown through the window of the White Lion Hotel. He was badly cut but no bones were broken and he was removed to his residence. CWN 08 10 13

1909 02 05

Elliott Robert Odams was a patriot who revered the memory of the late beloved Queen and because St Ives did not erect a memorial to her memory he gave the Victoria Jubilee Fountain in the Broadway. He had continued John Coote's business as a brewer and maltster in Cambridge until 1885 when he sold it to Mr R. Flick and moved to St Ives where he took an active part in public life. He was a staunch Conservative and a reader and supporter of the Cambridgeshire Weekly News from its commencement. 09 02 05

1909 07 10

One of the most vital needs of St Ives is an adequate sewage scheme. But the Council has decided not to go ahead with a scheme after the Ministry of Housing has refused to make a grant and it would have involved an additional rate of 14/- (70p) in the pound. They are now considering other ways of dealing with the river pollution. 09 07 10

1910 01 28

The General Election has been one of the keenest on record and it is with a feeling of relief that one realises the struggle is over. A number of election hoaxes have been perpetrated: rumours were circulated that a conflict had taken place between police and crowds at Cambridge and that the Riot Act had been read at St Ives. At Great Shelford a false result was announced before the counting was even finished. The whole village was taken in and rejoicings on quite an extensive scale were started. 10 01 28 b & c

1910 02 25

A hurricane with winds of 80 mph caused considerable damage. Hoardings in Belmont Place, King Street, belonging to the Billposting Company were unable to withstand the onslaught of the wind and fell while a large elm tree opposite Trinity Fellows' Garden was bespoiled of its top. At Ely Cathedral a window depicting St John the Baptist was damaged; the apostle's head was blown out but falling upon the lawn, the glass was not broken. At St Ives the wind blew down the home signal on the railway line and caught the gable end of Mr Holloway's music shop in Bridge Street, blowing off four yards of tiles. CWN 10 02 25a & b

1910 03 11

St Ives was shocked by the news of the sudden death of Horatio Wadsworth of the Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Works in Bridge Street. He was very much respected both as a citizen and an employer of labour. He attended the monthly meeting of the Masonic Lodge and walked home where he was immediately seized with an attack of faintness which ended 20 minutes later in death from heart failure. He was 45 years of age and leaves a widow, four girls and three boys. 10 03 11g

1910 03 11

On Tuesday evening a motor cycle with trailer came to a standstill on the Huntingdon Road near Oakington because of a puncture. It was dark but three cottages were close by, so the cyclist and his

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passenger took the machine into the room of one of them to repair the damage. While searching for the puncture with the aid of a light, the petrol became ignited and the carpet and other contents of the room were damaged. Some of the occupants who had retired to rest hastily left their beds in alarm. The cyclist and his friend then proceeded to the Five Bells and the landlord drove them, cycle and trailer in a pig float back to St Ives. 10 03 11i

1910 04 01

Boys attending Longstanton School accepted a challenge from Swavesey School for a football match. But on arrival they found a strong combination of larger boys from Swavesey, St Ives, Over and Houghton opposing them. An offer by Swavesey for them to discard their smaller boys for some of the spectators to make the teams more equal was dismissed by the little lads who determined to 'stick to their own men'. As expected Longstanton were beaten by nine goals to nil. Eight of the goals were scored by lads from Houghton and one by a lad from Over. The Longstanton juveniles have only been playing football for a month, a ball having been presented by the schoolmistress. 10 04 01b

1910 04 08

Mr C.P. Tebbutt of Bluntisham was a public speaker of exceptional gifts. He used few notes but never hesitated for a word or bungled a sentence. He spoke on the Gulf Stream, on earth worms and the drainage of the fens about which he was particularly conversant. He gave evidence to Royal Commissioners on topics including licensing saying that in Bluntisham there was one public house for every 50 persons and it was rare to see a man worse for drink. He carried out the widening of the Needingworth Road in St Ives, previously too narrow for the droves of cattle which came in from the fens ready for market. 10 04 08

1910 09 02

Mr R.J. Tollit, architect of Primrose Croft, Cambridge took his sister-in-law for a spin in his fore-car, a De Dion. They went as far as St Ives and had just got past the statue in the High Street when Mr C. Giddens of Hemingford Abbots came down the road from the opposite side driving a trap at a fair pace. There was plenty of room for both to pass. But they collided and Mr Tollit was sent flying under the horse's feet. Before losing consciousness he managed to turn off the petrol and cut off the engine, thus averting a fire. This is the second similar accident which has befallen Mr Giddens recently. Last time his trap collided with the motor belonging to the Junior Bursar of Trinity College. 10 09 02c

1910 09 16

The past week has been marked by an unusual number of fatalities. At Huntingdon a poor woman in a fit of insanity cut the throat of her infant child and then committed suicide. At Littleport a little girl of six years of age was run over by a farm cart and killed. A Stansted carpenter was knocked down by an express train and the body of a St Ives man was found in the river at Huntingdon. The Over mail cart driver blew his nose and immediately fell to the ground dead, probably caused by the rupturing of a blood vessel in the brain 10 09 16c

1910 11 25

A somewhat alarming accident took place at St Ives station. An engine was shunting a number of cattle trucks from the loading-up siding and received the signal from the shunter to proceed on to the down main road. The signalman, however, had his points open to receive another engine and although he could see what would happen was unable to attract the driver's attention. The trucks ran into the stop blocks at the end of the platform. The empty trucks were telescoped and raised on end causing considerable damage to the rolling stock. Fortunately there was little damage to the livestock, one cow being injured on the hip and a leg of a sheep broken. It was some hours before the side line could be cleared and the animals re-loaded into other trucks. 10 11 25

1910 12 09

All the low-lying land around Swavesey is under water. The roadway is completely submerged at the Swan Pond and foot passengers have to use the raised causeway, the gate openings in which are spanned by temporary bridges. Mr. J. Barnett, dealer of Fenstanton, came to grief when crossing with

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a horse and cart. One wheel sunk into the recently filled-in trench and became embedded for some time. Previously a cow had sunk in the soft soil near the same place and was with great difficulty dragged out. The railway line to St Ives has been carefully watched by gangs of men armed with flag. 10 12 09d

1910 12 09

A chauffeur in charge of a motor car had a very unpleasant experience. He was driving from St Ives to Fenstanton but when he had got to the White Bridge the water in the road was so deep that his engine stopped and he had to remain in the flood all night. PC Beecham saw the car with its powerful light just before two o'clock but did not think anything was amiss as the chauffeur did not sound his horn to attract attention. The car was discovered next morning and a horse had to be obtained to drag it out of the water. 10 12 09g

1910 12 23

The floods in Huntingdonshire are the worst for thirty years. The main road between Offord and Buckden was impassable and the Great North Road near Alconbury covered with two feet of water, entirely stopping motor car traffic. At St Ives water overflowed into the streets and backed up through the drains. The stabling at the White Horse Hotel yard was submerged and a motor car placed in a lock-up shed was found in a foot of water. The 38 houses on Victoria Terrace and along the London Road were cut off, while the railway at Fen Drayton level crossing was inundated, trains having to proceed at a very cautious pace. 10 12 23c

1911 01 13

It was recognised by musical men in St Ives that Arthur Giddins had a voice which, if properly trained, would be his fortune. So he placed himself in the hands of Joseph Reed of Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge, and after hard work became a tenor singer of no mean ability. Arthur obtained an appointment at Carlisle Cathedral where he has gained considerable fame and has now been appointed to a tenor lay clerkship in Manchester Cathedral. 11 01 13d

1911 02 03

Interesting developments have taken place in connection with the mysterious foreigner at St Ives Workhouse. The man was found on the road at Hilton but had kept his eyes closed and refused to give information about himself. The Guardians suggested the use of a galvanic battery might make him open his eyes and speak. The experiment was tried without success but the threat of a second dose had the desired effect. The man said he was a Lithuanian Russian and had left London 'because police and soldiers were shooting Russian foreigners'. 11 02 03

1911 02 10

St Ives workhouse foreigner identified – 11 02 10

1911 02 24

Employees of the St Ives firms of Parker and Son steam printers and motor engineers celebrated the 25th anniversary of the printing business. The cycle and motor department would increase and in a short time a large premises would be needed 11 02 24c

1911 03 10

There are still a number of houses at St Ives supplied by surface wells and after the late floods there were many cases of diarrhoea. In every case the water supply came from these surface wells. There is no doubt that the sewage is driven back by the rising water in the subsoil and contaminates the wells. It is fortunate that the drains were not infected with such a disease as typhoid or there would have been a bad epidemic. The wells should be inspected and if infected they should be closed, the Medical Officer reported. 11 03 10e

1911 09 01

A practical joker drove into Wisbech in a powerful racing car and announced that Grahame-White, the famous airman would fly into the town that evening. A large crowd gathered in a field selected for the landing but there was a high wind blowing and it was announced he had landed at St Ives. The crowds reassembled next morning and scores of cameras were placed in position. But the news broke that the whole thing was a hoax. The man had circulated the same story at March and crowds of people also waited there 11 09 01g

1911 10 13

St Ives Michaelmas horse fair was held in East Road and Quadrant. The fraternity were very much in evidence and shouting excitedly over prospective deals. These were not very numerous as business was very slow. There was much better attendance in the Cattle Markets but the trade for store stock was very slow owing to the shortage of keep and having to buy feeding stuffs at greatly-increased prices. The pleasure part of the fair, with the various shows, was quite as large as usual 11 10 13

1912 01 05

The need for a proper bathing place for St Ives has been discussed for years. Now a scheme had been formulated for acquiring a portion of the osier holt opposite the parish church with dressing sheds and a rustic bridge. The land had been offered by Mr Wright Ingle for £70. Some opposition was raised on the score of expense but this was silenced by the Mayor volunteering to pay any overspend out of his own pocket. An Inspector had visited the site and found it was flooded. However these floods never lasted more than three weeks, an enquiry was told. 12 01 05b

1912 01 26

The long-sustained wet weather and recent snowfall have brought serious floods. Rising waters have caused the stoppage of the chain ferries to Chesterton, the towing path under Victoria Bridge was submerged and meadows between Grantchester and Newnham are under water. A ride on the Great Eastern Railway from Huntingdon to Cambridge presents a view of an immense lake studded with trees and the large Portholme Meadow is under water to a considerable depth. At St Ives basements in Bridge Terrace and kitchens at Filbert's Walk are flooded. 12 01 26b

1912 02 02

Dilley, Son & Read held their horse repository sale at St Ives when 130 animals came under the hammer. Judging now commences with the harness horses at 10 o'clock, the vanners and cart horses follow in order and the sale begins half an hour earlier. This alteration proved successful: the sale was well over in time for the buyers to get their horses loaded up by the two o'clock trains, getting the animals home that same afternoon. There was a large attendance and prices were most satisfactory 12 02 02j

1912 03 01

St Ives licensed victuallers were told that under a new Act they had to give staff an afternoon off every week. In addition nobody could be employed for more than six hours without a break of at least 20 minutes while three-quarters of an hour had to be allowed for dinner – or an hour if the meal was not taken on the premises. One man complained that he kept a roadside house and was in private employ. If he had to give his wife a half-holiday each week he would either have to shut the house up or lose a half-day's work. 12 03 01

1912 03 01

A slight mishap occurred at the Milton level crossing when the down gate was smashed by the 6.05 pm train from Cambridge to St Ives. Beyond the smashing of the gate and some slight damage to the brakes, due probably to the sudden stopping of the train, no damage was done. Immediately before this Chivers' work-girls train had passed on the up line. The gateman said that earlier he had let through some sheep and the gates were securely fastened. But the down gate became opened in some way and was run into by the train. This is the fourth accident at this crossing in the last three years. 12 03 01f

1912 06 07

Our little motor took us over a nice piece of tarred road towards Girton College but all too soon it ended and we were wending our way over some choice examples of the celebrated Cambridgeshire patches. Just outside Fenstanton a sudden improvement in the road surface was so marked that I looked round to see the reason, and espied the post marking the county boundary. The reason was at once apparent – I had left Cambs and was now in Hunts. But an abrupt turn to the right took us on the road to St Ives, and I began to wonder if I was back in Cambridgeshire. 12 06 07a & b

1912 08 02

When the Women's Suffrage Association held open-air meetings at Abington and Linton numbers attending were noticeably large in proportion to the size of the village and a good many have their names as 'friends of Women's Suffrage'. At St Ives a meeting was held on the Market Place where about 300 listened with sympathetic attention to Miss H. Frazer, a well-known speaker for the cause who has come to help in Suffrage propaganda. She also addressed a similar meeting at Huntingdon where a large and orderly crowd of men showed deep interest and a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was passed without a single dissentient 12 08 02 c d

1912 08 30

Floods Swavesey, Cottenham, Royston, Melbourn, Arrington, Histon, St Ives – 12 08 30h

1912 09 27

St Ives workhouse flooding – 12 09 27h

1912 10 18

St Ives Midsummer Fair, Swavesey Swan Pond horse – 12 10 18l

1913 02 07

A shocking double tragedy occurred at St Ives when the landlady of the Temperance Hotel, Market Hill and a German lodger were found in a room of the hotel, both stabbed through the heart. It seems she had been murdered and the man had committed suicide. They were discovered by the maid who returned from a cinema show to find the hotel in darkness. The landlady had separated from her husband and the German worked at the chicory factory at Fenstanton. They had been seen at a theatrical performance in the Corn Exchange and seemed on the best of terms 13 02 07 p8 CIP.

1913 02 28

St Ives murder case

1913 03 24

Swavesey parish council discussed the late disastrous fire. The village engine was in good working order, but the pipes were defective. The landlord of The Swan presented a bill for 13 shillings for beer supplied to the fire fighters. They must pay the 31 men who had fought the fire to get them to work again if required. A number had left the Swavesey fire engine and worked on the St Ives one instead. 13 03 24 p5 CIP

1913 04 04

St Ives schoolboy's death allegations against teacher unfounded

1913 04 11

The Hundred Foot River was in a deplorable condition and had not been cleaned out for over 40 years, causing flooding in St Ives. The damage caused has in recent years substantially increased.

1913 05 09

St Ives workhouse inquiry

1913 06 06

Captain Heal, Lacon's bankruptcy examination – took pubs to increase business; Black Swan, Sidar. Victoria Bar Newmarket & White Horse St Ives

1913 06 06

The former manager of Lacon's Cambridge Brewery told the bankruptcy court he had purchased licensed houses as ventures on his own account as a way of increasing the brewery's business. But the Black Swan and the Sirdah in Cambridge lost money, as did the Victoria Bar in Newmarket and the White Horse at St Ives. He was a Town Councillor and Guardian and had been extravagant 13 06 06 p9 CIP

1913 06 13

An Elsworth poulterer testified that he came out of the Dolphin Yard, St Ives, paid two pence for the toll and asked the gatekeeper to let him through. But the man refused, claiming he'd owed another eight pence for arrears. So he gently pushed the gate open at which the keeper threatened to strike him. He had been through the gate for some years. He did not owe eight pence but there was two pence owing for a pig he took through for a Mr Braybrook. The man had no right to shut the gate after the toll had been paid, any arrears should be recovered in court. 13 06 13 p9 CIP

1913 06 13

The new St Ives bathing place was opened with considerable éclat, the Town Band playing an excellent programme of music. It has been constructed on the osier holt with an inlet from the main river and an outlet in the back water, ensuring a constant running stream. It is provided with cubicles and attendant's offices and is approached by an ornamental bridge near the church. The proceedings concluded with a water polo match 13 06 13 p12 CIP

1913 06 27

St Ives theft of handcart *

1913 07 25

St Ives indecent post cards

1913 08 15

St Ives football club a/m

1913 08 22

Albion fishing match, St Ives

1913 10 24

St Ives as holiday resort

1913 11 14

The Boveril airship encountered a strong headwind while passing over St Ives and the pilots decided to land. But it was impossible to bring the machine to earth. Repeated efforts were made to descend but the airship refused to answer to the landing gear and they were compelled to remain aloft in a wind sufficiently strong to render the situation distinctly dangerous. It was not until within six miles of Cambridge that they were at length able to come to ground. The pilots set it down to some extraordinary atmospheric phenomena which cannot be explained. 13 11 14 p8 CIP

1914 02 06

Joseph Jillings, 89, was one of those unfortunate persons who were burned out in the great Swavesey fire of March 1913 and, being in a very feeble state of health and having no relatives to look after him, was removed to St Ives infirmary. He was the oldest parishioner and returned to the village 20 years ago after many years as a gentleman's servant. Through the generosity of the Vicar collections

were made so that the old man's desire that he should not be buried by the parish could be complied with. 14 02 06g

1914 07 03

Lightning strikes houses Histon, St Ives, Kingston, Toft, Comberton, Wimpole, Elsworth

1914 07 10

Bradley's teeth: 27 years steadily increasing reputation. Time has proved Bradley's Teeth to be satisfactory right from the beginning. If you require Artificial Teeth send for a free book to F.W. Bradley who attends at Llandaff Chambers, 4 Regent Street on Mondays and Saturdays. Also at Thompson's chemist Fore Hill Ely, W.H. Clayton's saddler Huntingdon, G.A. Smith's St Ives and Bobby's chemists at Soham: advertisement

1914 10 09

Indecent postcards St Ives

1914 10 30

At St Ives a lady and gentlemen were making themselves efficient as revolver shots in view of the threatened invasion. A target was placed on a wooden shed and the practice proceeded well until a loud crash was heard. Investigations showed their shots had gone through the two sides of the building, across another 25 ft of ground and through a thick door into a quantity of glass windows stored in a brick building. Cattle Market requisitioned for military.

1914 11 20

St Ives yeomanry depart

1914 12 11

At the opening of the new Sutton Wesleyan Chapel the Rev Bryant said he felt ashamed that people had previously been worshiping in a building whose ceiling has to be kept together by large planks. The new one was an imposing structure seating 300 people designed by Mr Fovargue of March and built by Mr Giddens of St Ives

1914 12 25

St Ives Rifle Range accident, lad killed

1914 12 25

Jane Pegg, wife of an Impington coal merchant, said she saw a man at Histon station wearing a blue overcoat similar to the greatcoats of the Belgian soldiers. He told he was from Hills Road Hospital; he'd been wounded at Liege where his father was killed by his side. Felling sorry, she'd given him a meal and invited him to stay for the weekend. But really he was a butcher from St Ives. The lad said he'd return to his mother and promise to be a good boy. But he was sent to prison with hard labour.

1917 02 28

Consistory court orders removal of two altars at All Saints' Church St Ives for devotional purposes in connection with war – 17 02 28a

1918 01 23

Record floods due heavy fall of snow, Jan 15-16; commons covered; Sawston, Ickleton, St Ives – 18 01 23a

1920 11 15

War memorials unveiled on Armistice Sunday – St Giles, Histon & Impington, St Ives, Waterbeach

1922 06 15

Messrs W. Heffer and Sons have become well known for the excellence of anything exhibited at their Sidney Street galleries. Well above the standard of the rest of their exhibits is some of the truly

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wonderful work of a Scottish artist, Mr William Watt Milne, who has a studio in St Ives. The six pictures which are exhibited have been painted in the neighbourhood of Houghton. "Flood at Houghton" is the title of a pretty little piece of work depicting the picturesque village street on a grey day with the threatening sky reflected in a pool of water in the foreground. One of the best pictures is that called "The Old Inn at Houghton", a superb piece of work

1922 08 09

Salvationists in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire were greatly heartened during the holiday weekend by a visit from Mrs Booth, the beloved wife of the General, who addressed a series of meetings in several of the towns and villages which come in what is known as the Northampton Division. Mrs Booth made her tour in a motor car kindly lent and driven by Councillor H. Franklin of Cambridge. At all the meeting places large crowds had assembled and along the roads through which the cars passed not only Salvationists but many others came to the doors or stopped at their work to wave their hand to Mrs General Booth. Although it is a very long time since any Salvation Army gathering was held in St Ives there was a very large muster on the Market-hill to welcome her.

1922 08 19

Cambridge visitors to St Ives are doubtless familiar with the old town clock on Messrs R. Kiddle & Son's premises in Bridge-street. This clock, which was erected by public subscription about 120 years ago, will have to be removed in consequence of the discovery that the premises have become unsafe. A special meeting of the Town Council was held to consider what should be done about the clock. There was a natural desire not to lose an old landmark which helps the town to retain its old-time character, but with so many other clocks about and finances so tight as they are today, the Council felt they could not sanction the expense of repair

1924 01 11

St Ives electricity p3

1924 02 19c

The inhabitants of St Ives were horror-struck upon hearing the rumour that the Vicar of Hemingford Grey had been cut to pieces on the railway bridge at Hemingford Abbots. Shortly afterwards the story was proved beyond doubt, the remains of the reverend gentleman being conveyed to the vicarage. It is supposed he was making a visit to Houghton to arrange for some special Lenten services and when on the bridge was knocked down by a pilot engine

1924 02 22c

At a meeting at St Ives to discuss the Ouse Drainage order Mr Wheeler said there was a vast difference in draining lands below sea level and those above. The test was a simple one. If you took all the fens works away, the fens would suffer, but St Ives would not; therefore the work was for the benefit of the fen land. But the scheme proposed that the uplands should first of all pay for works done in their own district, and in additional pay towards all the works done in the fens whose works were obstructing the flow of our water out to the sea

1924 02 23c

An alarming outbreak of fire occurred at Miss Bluff's premises in Crown Street, St Ives. It appears that the chimney caught fire and was allowed to burn itself out but an hour later flames were seen issuing from the top window. Attaching their hose to the hydrant at Bridge Street the firemen soon had a plentiful supply of water pouring on the fire which was extinguished, but not before it had spread to the top floor of Mr Fred Norris' house. Fortunately there was scarcely any wind to fan the flames otherwise the block of buildings between Crown Street and Merryland would no doubt have been involved. Supt Gale and several constables kept the crowd back from hampering the firemen.

1924 03 23c

A wooden barn containing a straw stack was completely destroyed by fire on the farm of Mess Tebbit Bros, at Toft. Mr William Hellier of St Ives had tried to telephone the Borough Fire Brigade, but

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could not get them. He motored to Cambridge and met the Brigade as he was entering the town. It appears that someone else had continued to try to telephone, and had done so after 20 minutes waiting

1924 04 30c

There has been considerable indignation caused in St Ives by the town council's proposals to purchase the residential property known as Stanley House on the Market Hill for £1,200 & to convert the same into a town hall and offices. It is felt by the majority of the ratepayers that the building is not suitable for such a purpose, and that the cost of converting it and the upkeep afterwards will entail a very heavy expenditure on the rates. This scheme has therefore amassed a very strong opposition on the part of several of the most influential men of the town, including medical men and solicitors. A memorial has been drawn up and signed by nearly 960.

1924 06 01c

An Italian organ grinder was charged with assaulting Herbert Ager, organ grinder at St Ives. He pleaded guilty. Ager said he travelled the country with a young man from Hammersmith who had lost both arms. They had an organ. He was in Crown Street tuning his organ and while he was so doing defendant came up and hit him. Defendant said he hit the fellow because he had been playing in the town on Monday and then began again on Tuesday. He could not get any money when the other one was playing

1924 07 02c

Abbey United Football Club's record for the first three seasons of its existence is one of which they are justifiably proud. After winning Div.III and Div.II of the Cambs League in successive seasons, the club finished last season runners-up to St Ives in Div.I and failed to do the "hat trick" by a single point

1924 10 27c

The new Town Hall at St Ives was formally opened by the Mayor. The imposing building is in the centre of the Market place. Ald. Warren said that it was 50 years since the Borough was incorporated. He was pleased the council had never allowed politics or religion to divide them and he hoped they would continue to carry on the old traditions and not conduct their debates in any acrimonious manner.

1924 11 24c

The death occurred at his residence, Devonshire Road, Cambridge of Mr William Saint. Born at St Ives in 1851 he came to Cambridge and started business as a builder in Hooper Street. In 1888 he transferred to St Barnabas Road where the present works are situated and in 1918 it was turned into a limited company. A flourishing concern has now been built up, but the builders' strike in the early months of this year had a serious effect and gave him a great deal of worry & hastened his end

1925 02 13

The Bill to electrify Cambs., Beds & Hunts comes before Parliament this session. A great generating station will be erected at Lt Barford. At first they propose to develop the central area including St Neots, St Ives and Ely & to give a supply in bulk to Cambridge and Newmarket. To help the electrical development of the railways it is proposed to link up with the transmission lines of the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company and to afford a supply to the main railway lines within the area

1925 04 18

When attempting to pass one of Messrs Course's St Ives motor buses near the New Inn, Swavesey, Mr James Tanfield who was riding a Douglas motor cycle combination collided with a telegraph post. The bus had been keeping in the centre of the road, and in trying to pass he ran his cycle on to the grass roadside, the wheel of the sidecar remaining on the road. The front wheel ran into a draining grip and caused the machine to collide with the post.

1925 10 19

A comprehensive scheme for the provision of parking places in Cambridge will be laid before the Town Council who are empowered to authorise any part of a street as a parking place, though no charge can be made for parking cars in the public streets. Sites include Trumpington Street opposite the Leys School, Maids' Causeway, Lensfield Road, King Street & Jesus Lane. In Pound Hill it is proposed to allocate space for parking motor buses from St Neots and St Ives

1926 02 26

Sir – as a business man obliged to use the railways I wish to draw attention to the lack of punctuality of trains from the St Ives branch at Cambridge station. The 8.25 pm is invariably anything from a quarter to half-an-hour late, generally waiting ten minutes at Mill Road bridge whilst room is being found to run up to the platform. There is a rumour that the Ortona Motor Bus Company is shortly linking up with the National Bus Company at St Ives. The railway companies grumble about road transport competition, but it is their own fault and they have a remedy by being more punctual with the passenger service – H.G. Parker

1926 05 03

Cambridge is the administrative centre for East Anglia for the arrangements being made to meet the National Strike emergency. Mr F. Morris Warren of St Ives is the district coal officer. There are three Food Officers who will deal with complaints relating to the supply of provisions. The big job of the moment is the securing and registering of volunteers willing to help in any way with the maintenance of essential services and supplies with a recruiting office in the Guildhall. The Mayor of Cambridge, Ald Edward O. Brown, said: "Today we stand on the edge of an important crisis in the history of our nation. A dark cloud is overshadowing the life of our people. I appeal to all our people to prepare for sacrifice, and remain steady. God grant it may be averted"

1926 05 17

St Ives Town Council expressed feelings of profound relief at the cessation of the General Strike. St Ives had responded nobly in voluntary service and all classes had loyally carried out any duty required of them. None of the council employees relinquished their duty and no single case of lawlessness or friction had occurred in the town. The committee of ladies who had supplied refreshments at all hours, night and day, to transport drivers should be especially mentioned.

1926 06 12

St Ives Housing Committee heard reports on defective houses. One house in Wellington Street was so dilapidated that a demolition order was necessary. A large heap of manure had accumulated in a hovel at the back and outside buildings were in a dilapidated condition. It was difficult to deal with properties which were defective when it was known that the owners were not in a flourishing financial condition. There was not the slightest doubt that the housing problem was a serious one. It was imperative to do something for people who could not pay high rents.

1926 09 10

St Ives Council River Committee reported that a cross head had given way at the Staunch, wrecking one of the gates and causing a fall in the river; repairs had been carried out. They communicated with Mr Simpson, the owner who replied: "There seems to be some misunderstanding. Your council rent the staunch which comprises the lock and pen. In times gone by the lock had only one pair of gates (the second being put in when the navigation was restored about 1850). The barges came up the river and made fast just above the pen and flood gates; the gates of the pen were then shut and the flood gates lowered, and when sufficient water had come down the boats proceeded to the next lock. Would the council care to buy the whole structure? They would then not have to spend money on other people's property"

1927 06 15 c

Cambridge station had a very busy weekend. Over 4,000 travelled on Saturday to visit the Midsummer Fair. Extra carriages were attached to all incoming and outgoing trains and late special trains were run to Haverhill, Newmarket, St Ives and Great Chesterford.

1927 08 09

A butcher's shop belonging to the late Mr Fred Harrison of St Ives, with house, domestic offices & slaughter house was auctioned. Bidding started at £500 and quickly rose to £950; the Peterborough Co-operative Society eventually securing it for £1,000. A freehold old-fashioned thatched cottage at Hemingford Grey, the property of Mr A.V. Woods, was sold for £330

1927 10 01

St Ives RDC recommended a bonus of £50 be paid to collectors for the Somersham and St Ives districts. Mr J.L. Barton, speaking against the proposal, said that on a previous occasion he stated that University men were willing to take the position at 50 shillings a week. Things were no different today. He knew a case of a Cambridge University man who was so pleased with an offer of 50 shillings a week as a milkman that he was taking it.

1927 11 30

The annual concert and prize distribution of Slepe Hall School took place in the Corn Exchange, St Ives when a large gathering enjoyed a delightful programme of music provided by the staff and pupils. The certificates and prizes won by the girls were distributed by the Principal of Homerton College. She urged parents not to withdraw their girls, whenever possible, until the end of their school time, as a completed education was more necessary than ever in the new world and urged the girls to choose something for their future life which might be to them a vocation, no matter how bold such an enterprise might seem.

1928 01 05

The rapid thaw has caused one of the worst floods at St Ives for many years. Low-lying parts of the town are flooded. The scene at the old bridge was a magnificent one as the ice on the river broke up into huge masses and hurled themselves with considerable force against the old buttresses, becoming piled up for many feet. The iron railway bridge near Enderby's was only a few inches higher than the water level. Wadsworth's steps and Mr Day's boathouse were washed away and some of the boats damaged. The floods extended for many miles.

1928 05 30

The work of repairing the fabric of St Ives parish church, which was seriously damaged by a British aeroplane on 23rd March 1918 having been completed, a service of thanksgiving was held. The Bishop of Ely said it was hard that the burden of repairing a church should fall upon our generation, but we inherited these priceless treasures from those who had made sacrifices in days gone by. About £600 was still required for rehangng the bells and replacing the clock

1928 06 16

St Ives Fire Brigade was called to a surprise false alarm. The engineer was at the Brigade Station in 3½ minutes, the captain was on the scene in four minutes and one hose was soon playing on the building. Two hoses were then tried but the force of water was quite inadequate, only reaching about 20 feet. The manual engine was put on the Quayside but it was found that the present fire engine would not be of any use in case of a fire. A demonstration should take place with the steam engine offered for sale to the council.

1929 01 23

Caxton Rural Council received a letter from the Beds. Cambs. and Hunts Electricity Company seeking permission to fix an overhead wire from St Ives to Eltisley. The line would go through Hilton and Papworth and be a great boon. Mr Moss asked if the wires would be high enough to clear a man on a loaded cart. He had seen the wires near Cambridge and they seemed very low. The Chairman

said this was a matter for the owners of the land. He pointed out that it was the top wire that was the dangerous one, and the lower ones were merely guards.

1929 11 28

An amazing story was told at Huntingdon police court when a woman was charged with obtaining goods and money by false pretences. Edward Elphick, house furnisher of Huntingdon, said she had paid with a cheque that was returned marked 'No account'. Albert Bigmore, jeweller of Ramsey told a similar story. Police said she had made many untruthful statements. She came here about a year ago from Essex where she left her husband and four children and lived at Warboys with another man. She then moved to Wistow, Woodhurst, St Ives and Houghton before taking a cottage at Hartford. Wherever she lived she left behind debts and non-payment of rent. She wrote many letters to herself which purported to be from her uncle promising large sums of money and a motor car. She also claimed to be the widow of a naval officer. None of these were true.

1930 01 17

The R100 airship which made a long flight from Cardington in fog was seen as a fleeting but fascinating object over Swavesey. Emerging from the mist like a spectre of the sky, the giant vessel attracted admiring attention as the sun glinted on her silvery nose, which, approaching head-on, was turned into the semblance of a full moon. She circled round the locality before disappearing in the fog in the direction of St Ives. 30 01 17

1930 04 15

The new manager of the Broadway Kinema, St Ives, said he intended to put on most up-to-date films of a topical character, the 'talkies' were also to be introduced. But the presiding magistrate said: "We want superior films in St Ives, not so many murders and tragedies; something in the natural history line or travel pictures". The manager promised to bear this in mind and he fancied it would not be long before he knew the tastes of local people. 30 04 15c

1930 06 10

The new motor fire engine at St Ives was called out for the first time to a blaze in some outbuildings at Colne. But neighbours rallied round and by the time the brigade arrived the fire was under control. The damage included the burning of two young calves. 30 06 10b

1930 09 03

Huntingdon & Godmanchester Councils are to purchase Houghton, Hemingford & Godmanchester Locks together with Houghton Mill whilst St Ives have acquired the Staunton. They again have control of the locks and the chance of putting them into a proper state of repair. The town depended entirely on the river for its sanitation and it was essential to keep a good head of water in the river. The vendor, Mr Leonard Simpson says he regrets that his personal connection with the river that he loves will be severed. 30 09 03a & b

1931 01 20

St Ives council discussed an application for the interment of a reverend gentleman in the grounds of Madeley Court, Hemingford Grey. The Minister of Health has approved it provided that only one burial took place. The gentleman concerned was not yet dead but they had no power to stop the burial, however much they objected. 31 01 20e

1931 04 10

St Ives residents are concerned they will be deprived of the use of their river this summer because of engineering repairs at the stanch. The continued low water is not only ruinous to the boating industry but will also affect the acreage under osiers. At present the engineers had only put in a pair of fen gates, which was the easiest task of the lot. They should leave the remainder of the work until autumn. But very soon repairs would be started at Hemingford Lock. 31 04 10g

1931 04 17

St Ives town council has been awarded a site for the building to be called 'The Norris Library' which is to house a collection of Huntingdonshire topography, pictures and antiques collected by the late H.E. Norris. At his home in Chichester he had a room crowded with pictures, relics and literature. He was a man of great literary attainments and one of the finest chess players in England. The council recorded their gratitude and appreciation and stood for a moment of silence in tribute to his memory. 31 04 17b

1931 06 12

It was a very gentle earthquake in Cambridge: suddenly in the silence of a calm and tranquil night there came a mysterious, slow, oscillatory motion, quickening and increasing in intensity. It seemed as if a giant hand had seized the bed and was shaking it, gently but with irresistible might. A washstand was overturned at Comberton but houses were rocked at Ely where some of the foundations were heard to crack. At St Ives people sought refuge on the Market Hill and could not be induced to return to bed. 31 06 12c & d & e

1931 09 04

Market day at St Ives was the worst experience for many years owing to foot and mouth disease restrictions. Tradespeople particularly felt the pinch. Ordinarily the market would have opened at midnight on Sunday but a few hours before the Spaldwick outbreak was reported and that meant no cattle could be allowed to enter the auction. 31 09 04g

1931 12 04

The Broadway Kinema, St Ives is much better kept than before. The licence was renewed but the manager's attention was called to the badly-lit exits from the balcony of the cinema. Mr Glazier said that in the future he hoped to show more educational films. 31 12 04I

1931 12 25

St Ives tramps complained that their food and clothing had been gnawed by rats in the workhouse. But the Master said if they carried food in their clothing it was obvious that the rats would go for it at night. It was their fault as they left their clothes on the floor instead of hanging them up. He had shot 30 rats during the last month and there had been no trouble during the past three days. 31 12 25d

1932 01 08

Fire damaged St Ives Chicory Factory. Five Belgians, specialist chicory driers are employed, and at four in the morning one found the first floor was on fire. Flames spread through the silo to the elevator and to the second and third drying floors. Extensive damage was wrought amongst costly machinery. Arrangements had been made to increase the size of the building but these may now be delayed. Chicory is constantly being dried and on account of the terrific heat the danger of fire is always very real. 32 01 08

1932 03 29

People attending the St Ives grass track motor cycle races gathered around the arena in anticipation of a pleasant afternoon's sport and the engines began to buzz for the first heat when down came the rain. The riders valiantly continued to plough their way round to the finishing post, churning up mud many feet high. Machines and riders were practically obliterated under a steady stream of earth and the announcer was the only one to discern who was who. 32 03 29

1932 04 18

The entire confectionery department of Messrs H.G. Stiles' bakery at St Ives was totally destroyed by fire. For two hours the bakery, which contained tons of sugar, flour and a quantity of tea, blazed furiously. At one time the destruction of the shop and tea rooms appeared likely but fortunately it was separated by a thick wall and firemen managed to contain the outbreak. 32 04 18

1932 05 19

Some of the former spirit of the quaint St Ives custom of throwing dice for Bibles was recaptured when for the first time in 30 years a service was held in the church afterwards and the Vicar presented the bibles at the foot of the chancel. The custom used to take place in the church on the communion table. Twelve children had been selected, but three failed to present themselves so councillors acted in their stead. 32 05 19

1932 09 02

St Ives workhouse took in 693 casuals during the month, compared to 309 last August, including 19 women and ten children who had been fruit picking with their parents. It was unusual for girls of this age to be tramping. They have been made too comfortable and preferred such institutions to lodging-houses. They were supposed to pay for their keep but the men hid their belongings so it was difficult to know what they owned. 32 09 02a

1932 09 02

Practical jokers have been at work again on the statue of Oliver Cromwell on the Market Hill at St Ives. This time a yo-yo was attached to the pointing finger of his outstretched arm and was the cause of much amusement. Poor Oliver! Of recent years he has been adorned with objects ranging from beer bottles to a loaf of bread but this latest prank seems to be the most topical yet. 32 09 02d

1932 09 16

A well-known St Ives figure has been removed by the death of Mr Frederick Whaley, aged 80. He served in local banks becoming sub-manager with Messrs Foster which was taken over by the Capital and Counties and then Lloyds. He was a total-abstainer and non-smoker who filled every office at the Wesleyan Chapel. He always went abroad to escape the winter but declared that 'St Ives was the best place on earth between Easter and Christmas'. 32 09 16a

1932 10 28

St Ives magistrates were told that twelve months ago five persons by the name of Topper were ejected from a house and the Vicar of St Ives had kindly allowed them to use the parson's house at Woodhurst on the understanding that it should be vacated on request. They took a lot of furniture with them and two or three rooms were so 'bunged up' they could not be used. The resident clergyman, who acted as curate, had lived in the house with them for six months but now desired complete possession. 32 10 28

1933 02 09

Cambridge has lost an old-established tailor by the death of Mr Byron Thomas Wait of Mill Road. His father was a tailor at St Ives but Byron came to Cambridge 52 years ago and opened the shop in Hills Road. Thirty-five years ago he extended the business to the shop at 28 Mill Road and four years later to 100 Regent Street. Two of his sons are carrying on the business. 33 02 09b

1933 02 10

St Ives Chicory Factory wished to increase its supply of water to 50,000 gallons a day for the whole season. If the supply was cut off for two or three days it would not be an inconvenience. They would erect a pumping station and put down a filter plant on their property. East Hunts Water Company will be asked how much they are able to supply without detriment to the Borough. 33 02 10a

1933 06 08

St Ives water scheme – 33 06 08a

1933 09 22

The Norris Library and Museum at St Ives was opened with full civic pride. Herbert Norris's collection of manuscripts and books was unique; there was nothing printed in the world concerning Huntingdonshire that was not there and it should become a county museum. The architect, Mr Inskip Ladds was congratulated. The council had also carried out improvements to the Waits and made new flower beds. 33 09 22

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1933 10 21

St Ives Public Assistance Institution, which is now closed, could be converted into a home for wayfarers. It would take men aged 18-21 off the roads and try to improve their characters. They'd be subjected to regular work and discipline but have recreation in the form of a club. The Vicar said he was constantly picking up men on the road, often young fellows who never had the chance to work. Being near Cambridge it would give undergraduates the opportunity of doing real social service in the vacations. 33 10 21

1934 01 05

A new branch of Huntingdonshire county library was opened by the Lord Lieutenant in a room in the municipal building at St Ives. It had been made possible through a grant from the Carnegie Trust and would prove of great benefit to the town. The chain of county libraries was now complete. Two libraries had now opened in St Ives within a few months; they now had a lending library and the specialised Norris Library at the new Museum. 34 01 05

1934 01 12

St Ives may have a miniature lido on an islet in the river following the gift of two pieces of land known as Anchor Holt and Grace Holt by Mr Wright Ingle. The land was currently used for the cultivation of osiers but could be improved by erecting a footbridge. Flower beds and shrubs could be planted using unemployed labour at very little expense to provide something of which they could be proud. It should be renamed 'Ingle Holt'. 34 01 12

1934 02 09

Permission has been granted for the removal of swans on the river between Brownhill and Hemingford Staunches. There were not less than 250 and they did a great deal of damage to fish. St Ives Angling Society should be asked to destroy the cygnets on their portion of the river. But they should not go in for wholesale destruction because the swans were a pretty sight and people appreciated them, said Councillor Coote. 34 02 09

1934 04 06

The automatic waters sprinklers fitted at Messrs Enderby's mill at St Ives prevented a serious blaze. Fire broke out in a room on the first floor but within a quarter of an hour it was extinguished without human aid. Immediately a certain temperature was reached a safety valve was released and water rained on the blaze from all angles. At the same time a bell was set ringing which was heard all over the town. The mill is a printing works and a large stock of cardboard and paper was damaged chiefly by water. 34 04 06

1934 06 08

St Ives market is only a shadow of its former self due to the depression in agriculture. A good many of the old farmers and dealers have passed away and there are none to take their place. Sales in shops had also dropped since the coming of the motor car as there was a tendency for people to go to large centres. Buses come in from villages but leave again after ten minutes which was no good for trade, the Mayor told a meeting at which forty prominent business men formed a Traders' Association. 34 06 08

1934 06 08

Bus effects mergers – St Ives route - Wheatley – 34 06 08

1934 08 08

Constable C. Hine of St Ives police and his young lady friend, Miss Lily Wilkinson of Hartford, embarked in a punt at Huntingdon for a quiet afternoon on the river. But a stiff breeze resisted the progress of the boat as it neared the arches of the bridge and PC Hine seized a chain hanging from the stonework. At once a distressing situation developed: man and craft parted company, the policeman was left dangling in the water while the punt with its alarmed occupant, drifted away. Then a second

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punt, manned by two ladies rescued him from undignified plight, a reunion was affected and a car despatched for dry garments. 34 08 08

1934 08 24

Some 750 young anglers assembled on Parker's Piece and were played to the station by the band of the Boys' Brigade to catch a special train to St Ives to take part in the Albion Angling Society's annual fishing match for youngsters. The miniature army of anglers disported themselves along the river bank at Hemingford meadows. It was not unusual to see gathered in one small space at least half a dozen children with lines and rods crossed and floats completely submerged. The winners of the President's cup for the best catch were F. Parr (boys) and Marjorie Benton (girls). 34 08 24

1934 09 06

At Sawston leather works the sheep skins used are mainly from New Zealand and Australia but the finest come from St Ives. When the skins get to the factory from the butcher they are fleshed and then split in two. The outer one is made into handbags and hat-bands, the inner into chamois leather for window-cleaning leathers and gloves - many of the factory employees take them home and do the sewing there. The skin trimmings are moved to the Granta works at Stapleford and processed into sheets of gelatine. 34 09 06

1935 03 22

The new motor tug 'Sheldrake', which has been built for the Great Ouse Catchment Board for use in the Wash, took advantage of the seasonal rise in the water to travel from King's Lynn to St Ives towing a string of barges to collect osiers for the East Stone Bank contract. It is the first time for 20 years that a vessel of this kind as been seen as far up-river. The last vessel to carry a cargo through St Ives arrived in August 1915 with potatoes. 35 03 22a

1935 02 22

The Great Ouse River Board has reconstructed the century-old locks and sluice at Over so that one of their big steam dredgers can pass through. It is now dredging a channel with a minimum depth of 3ft 6ins through to St Ives. All the locks are now in order as far as Godmanchester but it will be some time before a deep channel can be dredged all that way. A great deal of spoil has to be removed from the river. 35 02 22a

1935 04 26

An inquiry was held at St Ives into proposals to build a public convenience in White Hart Lane. The market was important, bringing many people to the town and such a building was necessary. But Mrs Saint considered it would devalue her property in East Street and Mr Skeels, who owns two houses in the Quadrant, thought the council should utilise some of the land lying idle in the present market place. The Town Clerk said this would be unsightly. 35 04 26

1935 07 09

Roy Godfrey, son of the Swavesey Haulage Contractor, has been awarded an autographed Hobbs bat for his fine all-round performance in the 'News Chronicle' cricket competition for schoolboys. Playing for St Ives Grammar School he scored 46 runs and took six wickets for eight runs. He also took a difficult catch off a fast rising ball. Roy's performance is remarkable, as he lost his right arm as a result of an accident when he was five years old 35 07 09a

1935 08 22

With rods and a look that combined gladness and determination, a children's army a thousand strong gathered on Parker's Piece, intent on getting their fish. A free outing to St Ives, an afternoon's fishing, a tea, sports and prizes was arranged by the Albion Angling Society. Ice-cream men did a roaring trade and one enterprising draper sold a number of Panama hats before the quarter-mile long procession set off for the station headed by the band of the Boys' Brigade. The children's match was started about 30 years ago but stopped during the war and was not revived until 1928 or 1929. 35 08 22a

1935 09 10

St Ives staunch collapse – photo – 35 09 10

1935 09 14

St Ives police station is entirely inadequate and unsatisfactory, the Chief Constable reported. Two adjoining cottages could be bought and pulled down for an Inspector's house or there was a very good site known as Bible Orchard for an entirely new station. But Alderman Tebbitt did not think they were justified in spending money and that the present court room was quite adequate 35 09 14a

1935 09 14

St Ives Institution is empty and its condition getting worse every month. The roof was dangerous and two wings were bad but the children's ward and front part of the institution were fairly satisfactory. The Public Assistance Committee are apposed to it being used again as a children's home but it might be converted into six or eight homes houses for workers. They would be easy to let as there are hundreds of applications for houses 35 09 14c

1935 12 14

St Ives rowing – 35 12 14

1936 02 04

Widespread flooding occurred at Huntingdon and St Ives which one motorist says looks like an island. The water in the Old West is within eight inches of the top of the bank and these are being heightened with clay on the low places. There is also heavy seepage on the Wissey, all along the Middle Fen banks, at Southery Ferry and the River Lark. All banks are being patrolled by day and night with tugs and barges in readiness to deal with any emergency. 36 02 04b

1936 06 12

St Ives council discussed the possible development of the Ingle Holt, a small island in the main river which had been a gift to the town. With a river frontage and a greensward it could be a beauty spot equal to any in England. The Ouse Catchment Board dredger could deposit soil to raise the level. A suspension bridge from the Waits, a lawn and trees would not be excessive cost, but anything like a recreation ground with a bandstand and beautiful flower beds should be regarded with very great suspicion. 36 06 12

1936 09 19

St Ives RDC has lodged a strong objection against the installation of overhead electricity cables in the village of Holywell. They would be a tremendous eyesore in one of the prettiest villages which had several thatched cottages that, though modernised, contribute to its antiquity. But people at Hemingford Grey did not want water laid on by the council and could not be forced to have it. However residents of Hemingford Abbots did want a supply 36 09 19b

1937 05 12

St Ives Coronation procession, man dies – 37 05 12

1937 06 08

Radio Society set ups radio station near windmill at St Ives – 37 06 08

1937 07 09

Franciscan Brotherhood leaving from St Ives – photo – 37 07 09

1937 07 20

A Swavesey grocer told the bankruptcy court that in 1913 he'd bought his house which had been damaged by fire at both ends and had restored it. He started in business in 1925. But trade declined during the agricultural depression and competition became very keen with various stores sending out

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vans and calling from door to door. Then buses began to take customers to St Ives and Cambridge where they did their shopping and took the opportunity of having a cheap day out. This was the last straw: the bus service was doing great damage to many small shops in villages 37 07 20

1937 10 15

St Ives fair is now nothing less than a gambling show. A few of the push-penny boards do not do any harm but there were some attractions that are detrimental to the young: little boys were putting pennies on Hearts, Spades or Clubs and winning money at odds of 3-1. It would be better that people did not come than allow that sort of thing. The Council had a responsibility and without any drastic changes they could bring back some of the older amusements, the Mayor said. 37 10 15b

1938 03 11

Home-grown Chicory Ltd, operating a factory at Lakenheath alleged St Ives Chicory Ltd was seeking to poach its staff. The pay was less but their conditions better. Chicory drying was a highly-skilled job working in very hot temperatures up to 200 degrees. It took weeks to train a man and if he left the gang was thrown out of gear. There were only two factories in England and the market was limited. But the St Ives firm said they had heard their rivals had a better method of drying and were employing Belgian labour. So they had gone to the Swan at Lakenheath and brought some of the men a drink to try and find out. 38 03 11 &a

1938 03 22

Chicory factory dispute, judgement for St Ives firm – 38 03 22c

1938 04 09

Hunts Chief Constable said the patrol car at St Ives was unfit for police service and a new Ford 10 should be purchased. But there was no money in the estimates and last year £730 had been spent on police vehicles. The committee passed an estimate of £149 for a bathroom at the Deputy Chief Constable's house but in future such large sums should be budgeted for. Trained detectives should be appointed; they would go on a proper course and be used in important cases. But the chairman considered such a step was quite unnecessary. 38 04 09c

1934 04 21

Cambridge is to be the subject of an 'air raid' on July 14th. It is actually an ARP demonstration which will take place on Midsummer Common which is to be laid-out in the form of a street and made as realistic as possible. The scenario is that several squadrons of enemy aircraft fly over en route to Birmingham but are turned back and unload their bombs over Cambridge after they are attacked by aeroplanes from Duxford. The whole of the enemy machines are destroyed. Meanwhile the Mayor of St Ives, Mr D. Bryant, has built an air-raid shelter in his garden with the help of his sons. The first in the town, he is giving his townspeople a lead. 38 04 21 38 04 22a

1938 09 02

Speedway enthusiasts visiting Wembley Stadium were unaware that amongst the finalists was a local man. Tommy Price was born in Cambridge and attended the old County School. An enthusiastic mechanic he acquired an A.J.S and took part in his first grass-track race at St Ives. Having moved to London he graduated to a pukka speedway machine and began his racing career with the Wembley team competing against the finest riders in the world. He also studied aeronautics and has built several model planes which he flies at Northolt Aerodrome. 38 09 02

1939 05 18

Godmanchester council's action in purchasing a siren for A.R.P. purposes was unauthorised and they must pay for it themselves. Everybody had thought the County Council would pay as they were responsible for public air raid warnings all over the county. But they had decided sirens were only needed at Fletton, Ramsey, Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots. The Huntingdon siren, supplemented by one at the hosiery mills was sufficient for Godmanchester 39 05 18b

1940 02 09

St Ives town clerk G.D. Day retires after 50 years – 40 02 09a, b

1940 04 24

St Ives new market – official opening – 40 04 24c

1940 07 12

St Ives council not in favour of building g air raid shelters, to inspect passages on Market Hill – 40 07 12a

1941 09 12

Jewish evacuee removed to new billet at St Ives without permission – 41 09 12

1941 01 10

Measles. Although measles has extended to two further villages, in the St Ives rural district, the Medical Officer does not think there is any cause for worry. The epidemic is much as usual, but it happens there are more children about.

1942 09 18

Ninety Not Out, — Ex-Ald. H F. Corbett, Hop Bine House, St Ives, celebrated his 90th birthday on Monday. Although some years have elapsed since he took part in borough affairs, he still takes the keenest interest in the administration of the borough, and follows with a watchful eye all that is done for the welfare of the town.

1943 01 01

Cromwell Decorated. - The Oliver Cromwell statue took an unwilling part in the Christmas festivities at St. Ives when soldiers stationed locally festooned the Protector and placed a bottle of lemonade in his hand. The visitors had previously enjoyed their Christmas dinner at the Huntingdon British Restaurant and a tea dance followed at St Ives Corn Exchange. Many townspeople were among the guests and a jovial time was spent.

1943 09 17

Young People's morals. Following a meeting of many prominent people in the religious and social side of St Ives who were gravely concerned about the increasing laxity of morals among young people, the following resolution was presented at Thurs-day's meeting of the Town Council: "This meeting greatly deplores the growing laxity of morals, conduct and the drinking habits among some young people of the town, and earnestly press for the support of public opinion to whatever can wisely be done to counteract the deplorable state of things". The resolution was supported by the council. The Mayor said the resolution had been sent to him as a magistrate, and he pointed out the numerous organisations in the town working to counteract this moral laxity. In the case of the young girls there was always the influence of their mothers and the youth organisations at work. It was a very difficult matter, and he did not see how as a public body, they could do much more in the matter

1946 10 23

Centenary King's Lynn to Ely railway line commemorated; owing insufficient capital for Ely-Huntingdon line the project abandoned and only a short length build from St Ives station to terminus on Old North Road, Huntingdon. Failed to pay. East Anglian Company then built a vehicle to convey 60 passengers drawn by horse ridden by postilion with some outside seats for passengers. A special device enabled the 'driver' to disengage the engine from the vehicle when in motion. This continued for some time until steam locomotives again employed – 46 10 23

1947 03 13

From all parts of the district today come stories of flooded roads, following on the thaw and rain, with some of them impassable to traffic. In Cambridge itself, Parkers Piece, which for weeks has been an expanse of dazzling white, with not so much as a blade of grass showing, now resembles a lake. At St Ives some of the back streets are flooded fairly extensively, the water on the road to a depth of about

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10 inches entering many houses in the town, forcing people to move their belongings upstairs. Traffic had to be diverted last night because of the movement washing water into the houses. Three feet of water in places is reported at both Pampisford and Caxton, with vehicles stuck in the mud at the latter village and having to be dug out.

1947 04 11

The opinion that the people of St Ives had suffered for a fortnight unnecessarily from water in their town and houses that had nothing to do with the river was expressed at a meeting of St Ives Borough Council. Mr T.H. Burgess said "I consider the river had some part to do with the water in the town but not quite so big a part as we would like to think". The original flush of water had been from land drainage due to the lack of ditches and the fact that existing ones were full of snow. The river at that time was very low. He said the reason why they were left with drainage water was because they were dealing with an antiquated sewerage system. The sewer itself had been covered with walls, fences and trees

1947 08 22

Further steps are to be taken by Huntingdon, St Ives, Godmanchester and St Neots, the four towns so badly affected by the March floods, to press home to the Government the urgency of some action being taken to mitigate further floods of these places. Mr W.E. Doran (Ouse Catchment Board Engineer) said that in his view the inhabitants of those towns were suffering from the sins of their ancestors in building houses in a flood area. At the height of the recent flood water was passing St Ives at the rate of 11,000 cubic feet per second. It was impossible to dig a channel capable of taking such an enormous volume of water. A new sluice at the paper mills, St Neots would improve the position for that town but would not stop flooding there

1948 05 11

The watching eyes of Britain's air defence went into action on Sunday in the biggest-scale Royal Observer Corps activity in the district since the war. Observer posts were manned at Cherry Hinton, Linton, Caxton, St Ives, Abbots Ripton, Littleport and elsewhere following the movements of jet fighters, Spitfires, Lancaster and Lincoln bombers and other types of aircraft numbering over 100 aircraft put up by the RAF. At Linton I found the observers proud of their post, built at their own expense by their own labours during the war

1948 07 06

Mr George Dennis Day, for 50 years Town Clerk of St Ives died at his home. He was one of a "dynasty" of town clerks. His father was the first to hold the office being succeeded by his son in 1890. Following Dennis Day's half-century of service his son, Mr George Lewis Day was appointed to the office. The Day family's tradition of local government service was founded in 1837 when George Game Day was appointed the first clerk to the Borough guardians, an office he held for half a century and relinquished to his son

1948 08 16

Crews for 21 clubs came from over a wide area to St Ives Regatta and, blessed with fine weather, a very full programme was enjoyed by large crowds of spectators. A wealth of river knowledge was available in the judges' barge by reason of the presence of a veteran trio who have been attending St Ives Regatta ever since there has been such an event. The combined years and experience of Dr W.R. Grove, ex-alderman E. Kiddle and Ald F.M. Warren would be hard to outweigh

1948 08 16

It was a creditable achievement that there was scarcely a lull to allow the crowd's attention to drift away from the racing at St Ives Regatta. Several of the finishes were very close and in the final of the scratch-four a dead-heat was awarded between crews stroked by R. Stocker (Huntingdon) and S. Gore (St Ives). The race, re-rowed was almost as close again. The Misses Bunty and Betty Robb, second and third in the ladies race, received their prize from their mother, the Mayoress.

1948 11 03

The Mayor of St Ives announced that the Minister of Health has given consent to a £7,500 loan for the purchase of St Ives Corn Exchange. At the same time he has authorised the council to start work on the addition of a stage, dressing room and toilet accommodation. The Mayor said the council did "not want to compete with amusement contractors but we are afraid they might lose the use of the hall - one of the best in the country. We don't foresee any burden falling upon the ratepayers as a result". Their alternative scheme included a bar and restaurant on a first floor balcony and was estimated to cost £2,600

1949 08 18

When Mr W. Tomlinson (manager of W.H. Smith's St Ives branch) persuaded his superiors to open a branch in the Hemingfords, little did he know he was soon to open a shop, unique in the whole of the Smiths organisation in as much as it is their only shop with a thatched roof. For many years it was the village bakery, owned by Mr George Darlow. When he retired 10 years ago the shop as such fell into disuse, and now with a coat of bright green paint on the exterior, and books where once the loaves and flour stood, this little shop has come back again with a new lease of life.

1949 11 16

St Ives has lost a well-known and popular figure by the death of Mr William Scotney. He carried on the business of manufacturing wood-worker at Sawtry, a business which was founded by his father more than 100 years ago. In 1916 the business was transferred to East St, St Ives, and later to the old brewery in Ramsey Road, which was soon to become well-known as West End Mills

1950 05 24

Mr Sidney Inskip Ladds has left his written, drawing and printed material in folders marked "S" together with photographs, prints and negatives to the Norris Library, St Ives. All similar material marked "H" and a series of Huntingdonshire maps and watercolour pictures of local churches have been presented to Huntingdon county council to be preserved by them in the Reference Library there.

1950 05 29

St Ives council considered a suggestion that all tenants of the Green Leys estate houses be informed that lino must not be laid on ground floors. In some houses there was 18 inches of water under the floorboards. Ald Bryant said: "The council were pushed into buying the land. It wasn't good land and we've done the best to drain it, but we shall always be troubled with damp in the heavy rains". Where linoleum was laid dampness could not get away and dry rot ensued. This would probably lead to considerable expense and probably result in concrete floors having to be laid.

1951 10 13

St Ives council heard complaints of "lavish" expenditure by Huntingdonshire County Council. Today the average rate was higher than any other county in England, except one. Young men would leave the county and retired people who once settled in Hunts because of its low rates would no longer come there. During the current year county council salaries have increased by over £30,000 and the wages bill is now £100 more each working day than it was a year ago. For some years Huntingdonshire has been spending more lavishly on administration than other counties and unless drastic economies are put in place the county will find itself in a very serious position.

1952 06 03 c

Ever since he was a young lad "Shorty" Hallen has been fascinated by motor cycles. Some 20 years ago he started a business of his own in a small shed in Chesterton. Then in 1936 he opened his showrooms at Chesterton Road, Cambridge. Now he has opened another shop at the Bridge Garage, St Ives. Who could have visualised that the rather tumbled-down buildings could have been turned into the magnificent premises they now are? Instead of a musty-looking building it is a brightly painted, well set out and amply stocked showroom with everything for the motor cyclist. It will add to the usefulness, drawing capacity and charm of the town.

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1953 06 26

A recent decision by St Ives Council to break up and dispose of an historic Fenland lighter – presented last year – has had serious repercussions. Before donating it as a museum-piece Mr R. Cory of Brinkley had received several offers for its purchase from people wishing to convert it into a house-boat. The hatches were not perfect but it could easily have been repaired. There was a considerable ‘bash’ in the bow as a result of an accident on its last trip when carrying sugar beet. It had sunk because of heavy rain, strong winds and a lack of interest and attention. A half-hearted attempt had made to raise it at the worst possible time. The barge is at present a total wreck outside the Norris Museum

1953 12 10

Two frogmen are inspecting the bridge at St Ives and making minor repairs to the foundations for the second time – the last being in 1947 after the floods damaged the concrete base of the piers. Underneath their two-piece suit, flippers and helmet the men wore Naval jerseys and long pants & the only parts of their bodies exposed to the water were their hands. One was reported as wearing gloves, but this was treated as a joke. Last week they were working on the Huntingdon bridge where they carried out similar work.

1953 12 11

St Ives borough councillors are to inquire into the costs of buying robes to attend official functions. To go with the robes there would be ceremonial hats and the cost of ‘good class’ items would be about £24; gear of a lesser quality might cost £17. But they needed young people on the council who might find this a great deterrent and the proposal was ill-timed because with the Government going out of the market for uniforms the price of clothing might drop.

1953 12 11

A St Ives councillor complained that he was not allowed to inspect the borough’s ancient documents relating to the charter fair; as a ratepayer he had a right to consult public documents. But the Town Clerk said they were going into the question of the fair very carefully and it was inadvisable that too much information should get around the town. Private information had been leaked out of the council chamber before.

1953 12 28

The Town Clerk of St Ives, Mr G.L. Day, is to present the council with a mace by the chief designer of the Goldsmiths and Silversmith Company of London. A model of modern art, it will include four greyhound heads, the Day family crest for more than 400 years. His family has been connected with the Borough for many years and his great grandfather was instrumental in getting it incorporated in 1874. Unfortunately he died before the town’s inception and it fell to Mr Day’s grandfather to become the first Town Clerk until 1890, when Mr Day’s father took over. He succeeded to the job in 1940

1954 01 15 c

Part of the pavement has been roped off after a finial stone fell from the top of St Ives Free Church. While it is not expected that any more of these stones – placed under the weather vane – will fall, no risk is being taken. A steeplejack from the famous Larkin firm climbed to the top of the steeple and examined the damage, which was due to both age and weather. The last full-scale inspection of the 95-year-old steeple was made in 1929 when a ‘big job’ was done on it.

1954 01 15

St Ives council were told that the ‘rival’ fair supplied by the Showman’s Guild in opposition to the ‘official’ fair supplied by Mr S. Smart, did not infringe upon the Corporation’s rights. The Clerk said that when he heard the ‘rival’ fair was to be held on Anderson’s field he wrote a threatening letter, hoping it would be abandoned. It was not a proper fair, only a pleasure fair and the only things that could be bought were sweets. The council could apply to the Government for an order to exclude it.

1954 01 15

Cambridge Waterworks is to supply the Ramsey and St Ives Joint Water Board with a quarter of a million gallons of water a day until 1965. The Board was created in 1937 but its initial plans for abstracting water from the River Ouse had to be abandoned because of 'gross pollution' from untreated sewage. They have bored four wells at Earith but other sites did not produce results so the only alternative was to buy water in bulk, although this means laying 12 miles of mains.

1954 02 12

In order that the chaos of last year's St Ives fair should not reoccur, the Council is to obtain an order making it illegal for any rival operator to set up a pleasure fair within two miles of the Market Hill within 21 days of the Michaelmas Fair. It will exclude Warner's Park, the Car Park, the Market Layers and other council-owned property which may be used for the storage of caravans and other fair equipment.

1954 06 03

Standen and Son, the manufacturers of Sugar Beet Harvesters, appreciate the needs of the small grower for a compact harvester costing about £300. Prototype machines were built and put to work in the fields where they operated for weeks on end. Often they were taken back into the workshops at night for modification and be in the fields again next morning. So the 'Junior' harvester was born and the firm's works at Ely and St Ives are busy producing the machine for this year's crop.

1954 06 10

The Air Ministry is being blamed by farmers for the flooding of the land between St Ives and Wyton aerodrome. They say that heavy rains were made worse by the aerodrome's extended runway that shot the water on to hundreds of acres of land. In the old days the water on the hill seeped through slowly or went into the normal ditches. On Chivers' farm at St Ives some 3,000 chickens were in danger of drowning and elsewhere water came up to the stomachs of cattle. Orchards were flooded, fields of beans had 23 inches of water in them & swans were swimming in a field of brussel spouts. The floods have done more damage than those of 1947.

1954 08 13

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Lloyd's Bank in Cambridge. In 1804 two brothers named Foster who were already trading as millers established a bank in Bridge Street. In 1835 they transferred to the Turk's Head in Trinity Street and opened branches in St Ives, Saffron Walden and Ely. In those days two members of staff were boarded on the premises, one sleeping on a bed in front of the strong room armed with a rusty sword. At no time was the building left unattended. In 1890 they acquired a site at the junction of Hobson Street and a new building in Renaissance style was opened in 1894. The Capital and Counties Bank took them over in 1904 and 14 years later they amalgamated with Lloyd's. In 1919 the two offices were merged and the Sidney Street premises chosen as the main branch. In 1935 a considerable extension was built on the corner site.

1954 10 23c

A new pumping station was opened at Kingston. The first bore hole had been sunk by the old East Hunts Water Company in 1934. It was altered for R.A.F. purposes at the beginning of the last war and in 1943 the Chesterton and St Ives Joint Water Board was formed. Three years ago permission was obtained from the Ministry and the present buildings started. The original water supply came from Bourn from a station that was built in 1900 and the next erected at Longstanton in 1930. Now with the ever-increasing demand for water had come the new station.

1955 06 18

The level of employment in manufacturing industries continues to rise while the number of unemployed men and women become steadily smaller, Cambridge Employment Committee reported. But there is an urgent national need for recruitment to the coal-mining industry with men from Saffron Walden and St Ives going for training. Young men registered for National Service should also

consider it as enlistment notices would not be sent so long as he remained employed underground. 55 06 18a

1955 06 30

Lloyds marked the 125th anniversary of their bank in St Ives. The first bank was opened by Foster and Company in Bridge Street in 1830, transferring to new premises in Crown Street in 1872. They were taken over in 1904 by the Capital and Counties Bank which amalgamated with Lloyds in 1918. The present Crown Street premises were rebuilt in 1923. 55 06 30

1955 11 11

Alderman F.M. Warren, a member of St Ives Borough Council for 51 years and twice mayor has announced his retirement at the age of 85. He would like to see the council transform the inadequate sewage system as they cannot increase the number of houses without adequate drainage and improve the drainage system to get rid of the danger of floods. They should recondition the old bathing place and provide a sale ring for tuberculosis tested cattle at the market. Council house rents would be a problem but he was sure tenants do not want to live on subsidies provided by the rest of us. 55 11 11 & a

1956 04 13

St Ives council agreed a five-year slum clearance programme. Seventeen houses in Green Street will be followed by others in Cumberland Place, Woolpack Lane, Nicholas Lane and Church Street. When they become vacant they should not be re-let but be demolished. When a house in Botchergate Buildings becomes vacant steps will be taken to ensure it is not again used for human habitation. 56 04 13a

1956 05 25

Civic history was made when Councillor Mrs M. Hudson was elected Mayor of St Ives. She is the first woman ever to hold this high position. She came in 1920 with her late husband, an artist on the staff of Enderby and Company, and was elected the first lady councillor in 1945 with more than 1,000 votes, a record. She must have wished for the company of another lady whilst being 'smoke-dried' by a lot of men in the committee room, now Miss Grove has joined her. 56 05 25c

1957 06 07

St Ives Employment office closure protest – 57 06 07b

1956 06 18

Continual rain affected attendance at the Hunts Agricultural Show, held at Houghton Hill, St Ives: only 6,000 visited, compared to 10,000 at St Neots last year. The Combined Royal Marines Bands arrived seemingly unperturbed by the downpour and marched through the town's main streets to the showground where they presented a programme of music including selections from 'South Pacific' as the rain became even more heavy. 56 06 18b

1957 08 09

The Mayor of St Ives said it was high time something was done to prevent stallholders on its market from opening until a late hour at night. During the August Bank Holiday Monday market the town was in a shocking state and council employees had to work late to clear up the rubbish. Traders should clear their own or be charged a levy of ten shillings. 57 08 09a

1958 03 06

A March grocer told the bankruptcy court that at one time he had branches of his business in St Ives, Littleport & Downham Market. He also owned and ran a wholesale grocery business to keep his own shops supplied. He had been successful during the war due to assured profits and the absence of competition but now had a deficiency of £4,784 and was living on National Assistance. 58 03 06b

1958 03 07

Huntingdon magistrates turned down requests by the Fiesta Coffee House and the Nickel Coin Restaurant to allow them to play juke boxes on Sunday. The Chief Constable thought they would attract 'undesirable types' and such music should not be encouraged on the Sabbath. In London they were being placed in the better class of hotels and clubs and cafes at St Ives and St Neots had them so lads from Brampton and Wyton now went there. 58 03 07a

1958 08 15

St Ives will see more than 2,000 more inhabitants during the next 10 years, the newly-formed Town Development Committee was told. At their first meeting they had the plans of no less than 237 houses before them. This shows that their wish that St Ives should be developed privately was beginning to come true and they should give every assistance to the developers. They have the responsibility of making it appear in 100 years' time that something was done right in 1958. 58 08 15a

1958 08 30

British Railways Eastern Region announces the closure of Earith Bridge Station on the St Ives to Ely line from Monday October 6th. Alternative facilities for parcels and freight traffic are available at Bluntisham, Somersham, Sutton and Haddenham stations. 58 08 30d

1958 12 12

The Great Ouse River Board fear that if a proposal to build 600 houses around St Ives is carried out before the new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is completed then serious pollution may be caused. But the Council say there is now less effluent discharged into the river than years ago as a number of houses are now connected to their sewage plants and these could be enlarged if necessary. 58 12 12a

1959 03 18

St Ives – Kettering railway line closure plans – 59 03 18

1959 04 18

St Ives – Kettering railway line closure – 59 04 18

1959 05 27

British Railways announce that passenger train services between St Ives and Kettering and the freight train services from Buckden and Grafham stations will be withdrawn on June 15th. In addition trains running between Cambridge and St Ives on weekdays which at present serve Kettering will also be withdrawn. Arrangements will be made to augment the service to St Ives by the 10.17 am Cambridge to Peterborough train calling at Histon, Oakington, Longstanton and Swavesey stations and an additional train leaving for St Ives at 5.15pm calling at all stations. 59 05 27a

1959 09 11

River Board may take over St Ives staunch – 59 09 11a

1959 09 11

St Ives Dolphin hotel fire – 59 11 16

1960 02 19

Three sections of disused railway lines might be used in connection with the construction of future new roads in Huntingdonshire. They are the line and bridge from Bluntisham to Earith on the St Ives-Earith-Ely branch line, the bridge over the Great Ouse between St Ives station and the level crossing on the B1040 and the line and bridges from Huntingdon to Kimbolton. But councillors see no use for the line from Ramsey East station to Warboys. 60 02 19a

1960 10 01

A St Ives boat builder has created a modern boatyard out of an old derelict gravel pit in 12 months. Mr L.H. Jones, who moved his business from Huntingdon, cut a channel through to the river and dredged out the bottom. In his workshops he builds anything from small launches to 30-foot cruisers which are used mainly on Fenland waterways. 60 10 01

1961 08 24

Histon station has completed a hat-trick of wins in the garden section of the annual competition for best-kept station. They are one of four in the region to gain the top award of £10 which will go towards the cost of seeds and plants for next year. The new stationmaster, A.S.G. Harris, has taken a keen interest in the competition with strong support from his three porters who have done the bulk of the work. Longstanton, Oakington and St Ives stations also won recognition. 61 08 24b

1961 10 04

The news that the American air base at Alconbury will not now be closing will give long-term confidence to residents and traders in Huntingdon and St Ives who were concerned of the effect on their businesses. The Americans had announced that the base would be reducing its strength in 1964 and about 200 British civilian employees would be declared redundant. Now Alconbury and three other bases in East Anglia will remain open 61 10 04a

1961 11 13

A bullock being driven to St Ives market escaped from a herd and went into the large plate-glass window of Messrs Kiddle and Son in Crown Street, where wallpapers were on display, breaking away about two-thirds of it. Nobody was injured and the animal was taken on its way to market, apparently unhurt. Due to the heavy rain at the time it was necessary for the firm's staff to quickly board up the window. 61 11 13

1962 01 06

Water undertakings administered by local authorities in St Ives, Ramsey, Chesterton and South Cambridgeshire are to be transferred to the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company – 62 01 06a

1962 06 28

St Ives water shortage very serious – 62 06 28

1962 09 22

Two more St Ives public houses are to be closed, leaving the town with only 12 licensed houses, including two hotels, where once it had 96. They are the Lamb near the Market Square where Mr Charles Garner has been licensee since 1948 and the Cow and Calf in the Broadway where F.H. Mott is leaving after just one year. Brewers Steward and Patterson say they will probably be sold. There were 'two many licences' and a need for 'better pubs' such as the recently-erected Seven Wives 62 09 22

1962 09 26

St Ives estate shop plan – 62 09 26b

1962 11 01

The firm of Tom M. Scotney of St Ives, which employs 210 people on important defence and export contracts from some of the leading aircraft companies, will have to turn orders away, an Inquiry was told. The lack of affordable housing means that they cannot attract skilled craftsmen. But proposals to erect staff dwellings on land at London Road, Fenstanton were opposed by planners who say the only access to the town was by the river bridge and it would add to traffic at peak hours. Residential development should be to the north of the town so retaining the identity of the Hemingfords and keeping away from potential flooded area. 62 11 01

1962 12 01

A pop singer who trades as Rocky Rivers of the Rocky Rivers Top Twenty Club, Corn Exchange, St Ives was fined for displaying advertising posters in Cambridge without permission. The City Council were concerned with the spread of such unauthorised posters. 'Rocky Rivers' claimed they'd been put up by rival groups to get him into trouble. He'd given posters to people at the club but did not know where they had been stuck. 62 12 01

1962 12 04

St Ives councillors discussed the acquisition of properties and the erection of flats in Green Street. With the right buildings it would make the central part of the town look as attractive as possible. This was an ideal spot for six-storey flats which would give those in the top storeys a wonderful view of the river. It would be too big a development for the council themselves but developers and contractors would take an interest as land has now got so scarce and there is little space on the outskirts of the town 62 12 04b

1963 01 14

Four disused gas fittings surrounding statue of Oliver Cromwell at St Ives to be replaced by electric lights – 63 01 14a

1963 02 02

Like other sport, golf has been hit by the appalling weather conditions with no play since Boxing Day at the Gog Magog course. The ground was frozen before then and the greens have not been fit to use since the middle of December: they are like lakes and the bunkers full of snow. At Newmarket greens are like frozen lakes, Girton's nine holes are completely waterlogged, St Ives frozen solid and the hilly course at Royston has drifts many feet deep. 63 02 02b

1963 03 19

St Ives considers redevelopment of prefab site 63 03 19

1963 03 27

The Beeching report on the future of British Railways suggests the closing down of 19 stations in the Cambridge area – including three serving the main towns of Haverhill, Saffron Walden and St Ives. There would be the complete withdrawal of passenger services from branch lines, Cambridge-March, Gt Shelford-Marks Tey, Audley End & Bartlow lines. Amongst the village stations closed to passenger traffic would be Histon, Wimblington and Chatteris, Bartlow, Pampisford and Linton together with Soham and Fordham. Services from Black Bank would also cease 63 03 27 & a

1963 04 01

Cambridge Water Company has become responsible for public water to the areas previously supplied by the Borough of St Ives, Ramsey UDC and the Rural Districts of Chesterton, South Cambs and St Ives. 63 04 01a & b

1963 04 02

The withdrawal of passenger train services from St Ives would be a great blow to trade; people in villages would not use buses with that tedious journey, the town's Chamber of Commerce heard. The line from March to Cambridge would remain open for freight and a rail conductor service for passengers might be provided. But it would deter industrialists who were considering setting up business. More light industries should be encouraged; they would supply the population to fill houses and the factories would contribute towards the rates and help meet the high cost of the new sewerage system. 63 04 02a

1963 04 04

The shock of Dr Beeching's plans to close Chatteris railway station and the St Ives loop-line connecting them with Cambridge and March is over. But Chatteris councillors' battle to maintain the line is hotting-up. It would hit many residents who travel to work in Cambridge each day or visit

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Addenbrooke's Hospital. If the station closes there would be more traffic on the roads which are already congested and make the town isolated, they claim. 63 04 04

1963 09 13

St Ives Cromwell's Barn repairs – 63 09 13c

1963 09 18

St Ives plan for 140 houses at St Audrey's Lane approved – 63 09 18a

1963 10 02

"There is only one thing to do with Cromwell's Barn and that is put a bulldozer through it", St Ives councillors were told. Huntingdonshire county council say measures should be taken to preserve the building in Houghton Road and asked the Borough for a contribution. But they consider the barn was not of great historic interest and the owners did not want anything to do with it. There were no records to prove Oliver Cromwell used it and the barn at Toseland was in much better condition 63 10 02a

1963 12 20

St Ives Sand and Gravel Company started in 1937 and is now one of the leading producers of aggregates in the country. It works at about 18 pits including Earith, Fen Drayton, Wimblington, Chippenham and Mepal, in the river terrace gravels of the Ouse Valley. One pit at Meadow Lane St Ives was a football field two years ago and has now been dug out to a depth of about 20 feet and left flooded. Filling in is a problem for this must be done with clean material which must not pollute the water supply. On the other side of the road enormous shovels have created cliff-like sides streaked in brilliant orange and chrome. 63 12 20a

1964 02 01

St Ives library opens – 64 02 01b

1964 03 20

Colin Drage of Abbots Ripton has been a rat catcher since leaving school. He cycles up to 30 miles a day carrying bait and traps. He formerly kept five dogs and 60 ferrets but now mainly relies on modern poisons. His biggest catch was at the old Huntingdon incinerator where he picked up over 800 dead rats, many others died in their holes. But now many old buildings in Huntingdon and St Ives have been demolished so there are not so many rats about. 64 03 20f

1964 05 22

Planning permission has never been obtained to convert part of St Ives town hall into an office, occupied at present by the Town Clerk. According to planning records it is still listed as a women's toilet. When the council took over the building, Stanley House, 40 years ago, it prompted great opposition. So heated were the arguments that after brawls and fights a government inspector was appointed and opponents put up their own candidates for the council. 64 05 22b

1964 06 05

Listed buildings may not be demolished but owners need not keep them in repair and they often deteriorate until they are condemned as a danger to public safety. Cromwell's barn in St Ives was a magnificent example of a 16th-century manorial barn but it was burn down because it became unsafe. In Cambridge many little cottages are disappearing behind scaffolding to emerge with a completely different character and price-tag. Some houses in Portugal Place and a tiny court near Sidney Sussex College are in danger but Orchard Street has been saved by the Preservation Society 64 06 05b

1964 10 28

St Ives Football Club new clubhouse nearly ready – 64 10 28b

1965 02 11

St Ives Dolphin Hotel and Bridge House may be demolished – photo – 65 02 11a

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1965 02 17

St Ives development plans – 65 02 17a

1969 01 24

Cambridge-St Ives railway line could be kept running – feature – 69 01 24

1970 10 05

Cambridge to St Ives railway line final journey – 70 10 05

1972 06 29

A Mid-Anglia firm claim to have pocketed a world market with a new electronic calculator announced yesterday in London. Sinclair Radionics Ltd of St Ives Mill, who are mainly known for their hi-fi equipment, launched the Sinclair Executive calculator, which is smaller than a 5p bar of chocolate. The Executive is 5 1/2 inches long, 2 inches wide and just over 1/4 inch thick, and will easily fit in the breast pocket of a suit. It will sell for £70. The calculator uses 7,000 transistors, 10 times as many as in the normal colour television set. The calculator has an illuminated display of up to eight digits. It will add, subtract, divide and multiply instantaneously.

1972 07 27

By throwing out plans to fluoridate Huntingdon and Peterborough's water supply, the county council have only postponed the day for two years. Because when the new health authorities take over, there is little doubt that fluoride will be in every water supply in England & Wales. Their decision means that for the sake of having no fluoride in the water supplies to a small part of the area around St Ives and Ramsey, they have denied fluoride to almost 200,000 people in the Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely area. This is because both councils were linked in a £68,000 plan to be carried out by the Cambridge Water Company

1972 08 05

The long-awaited Cambridge Transportation Study was finally published yesterday. It is two years overdue and has cost £113,000 - almost £1,000 a page. It was jointly commissioned in 1967 by the Cambridge city and County Councils and the University. It was to be carried out by R. Travers Morgan and Partners and was estimated at that time to cost £78,000. Its major proposals include a Railway Road leaving the A10 south of the Trumpington street traffic lights, hugging the northbound railway track all the way to Newmarket Road. After crossing the Cam the new road would veer sharply west to follow the St Ives railway line along to the A10 Milton Road before linking up with Arbury Road. The Railway Road should be largely dual two-lane carriageway. Full construction could take many years

1972 09 02

Joe Bugner - St Ives' former British European and Commonwealth heavyweight boxing champion could be forced to train outside Huntingdonshire if his plan to build a gymnasium at Wyton is turned down. Joe currently trains in a gymnasium in St Mary's Street in Huntingdon. His manager Mr Andy Smith said "I should think that in view of Joe Bugner's contribution to this county in the past they could perhaps give him a little consideration"

1973 01 26

St Ives boxer Joe Bugner will not be alone when he steps into the ring to face Muhammad Ali in Las Vegas next month - for beyond the ropes & out of the spotlights will be scores of his local fans. Many fans from his home town of St Ives are making the once-in-a-lifetime trip to Las Vegas to cheer their hero in the biggest challenge of his career. Amongst the crowds will be the proprietors of his local Seven Seas fish and chip shop, Keith and Eileen Holland. Since they opened their shop four years ago Joe, the European heavyweight champion, has been one of their regulars

1973 02 15

Joe Bugner fighting a mercurial Muhammad Ali was clearly out pointed in his world title eliminator in Las Vegas. Any chance the European champion from St Ives had of taking the initiative disappeared in the first round. From then on his fight for survival was only infrequently interspersed with bursts of aggression. The Mayor of St Ives, Coun. Mrs Susan Phipps said she was going to send Joe a telegram congratulating him on putting up "such a splendid fight"

1973 03 05

Sinclair Radionics Ltd, whose launch of a miniature electronic calculator less than a year ago bred a host of imitators on the market, are still cock-a-hoop. For today, with eight month sales behind the, the St Ives firm still dominates the market, sending out from their riverside mill factory each month more than half the United Kingdom sales. Now the firm have hit harder still at their competitors with a £20 reduction to £59. The executive calculator is smaller than a 5p bar of chocolate. It uses 7,000 transistors, 10 times as many as in the normal colour television set

1973 05 29

Extra police were drafted in from Mid-Anglian towns for a pop concert at St Ives attended by hundreds of teenagers who had come to see The Sweet pop group. The crowd was not as big as organised hoped. Even one of The Sweet commented when he got up on the stage; "There isn't many of them, is there". The top pop group was supposed to have arrived in a helicopter, but in fact they slipped almost unnoticed into the grounds in a large black car. Only a handful of fans saw them come in, most were listening to a supporting discotheque

1973 06 28

A £750,000 deal has been signed for Sinclair Radionics Ltd, of St Ives, to supply more than 30,000 electronic pocket calculators to Japan over the next 18 months. Sinclair, who claim to be the largest European manufacturer of electronic calculators say that the order will mean a 50 per cent increase in the present staff of 120. To help with production they have just taken a lease on a second factory at St. Ives. Mr Clive Sinclair claims the Executive is the world's smallest pocket calculator - it is the size of a 5p bar of chocolate. It sells at a price which puts it at the top end of the market in Japan, in line with their policy of selling a product which has quality and features which make it a prestigious purchase

1973 07 11

The possible reopening of the St Ives - Cambridge passenger rail service is a very real priority, said Mr Robert Gemell, the Chief Passenger Manager of British Rail. He gave an assurance that he was doing all he could to get the line reopened. But the future was really in the hands of local councils and the people living in the area to make their demands for this service heard in the right places, he said. The final decision was with the Government on the advice of British Rail. The recent estimated cost of re-opening the service was £100,000 but British Rail were trying to see if this could be reduced

1973 07 27

There was more than a sense of achievement in the air at the official opening of Hemingford sewage works. More than 80 guests had first-hand experience of that certain something that distinguishes a sewage station from any other kind of plant - because the wind was blowing in the wrong direction. In his opening speech the chairman of St Ives Council Health Committee said "I must apologise for the lack of control of air pollution, but I understand it was not possible to have air fresheners for everyone so you will have to put up with it"

1974 02 26

A decision by the new St Ives parish council to wear robes on civic and other special occasions was criticised as being out of touch with the young electorate. Councillor Bertie James also warned about embarrassing future parish councillors who may not be able to afford the £30 to buy a robe for civic functions. A majority of councillors disagreed and the decision to wear robes on civic occasions and other occasions where councillors thought fit was carried

1974 04 26

Council tenants will move into four-bedroomed homes on a high-class privately built housing estate in St Ives if Whitehall agrees. Huntingdon district council say they are waiting for the go-ahead to buy a dozen empty houses on the White Cross estate, Ramsey road. But home owners already living there are continuing their protests that it would be unfair to have half the estate council-owned and the rest in private hands

1974 05 28

The vicar of St Ives defended gambling after children had been placing dice for bibles in his church. Canon Ronald Jennings said the 300-year-old ceremony was one of the town's traditions. It takes place each year because in 1675 a town doctor left a legacy to pay for bibles to be diced for by children in the parish. The youngest was 7-year-old Claire Coleman and the top scorer was 10-year-old Rachel Anderson.

1974 07 24

Comedian Eric Morecambe, in a borrowed Ironside helmet, led the celebrations at St Ives when extensions at the Golden Lion Hotel were officially opened. He met hundreds of local people who came along for the free beer and merry-making. Between signing autographs on beer mats Eric sparred with Joe Bugner, one of the guests

1974 08 28

Children on their own are banned from buying sugar in Lipton's Huntingdon supermarket because the manager says they are running a high price black-market. Others have taken action because mothers are sending in their children to beat the 2lb a family rationing by shops. In all towns in the area the story of the sugar stampede is the same: as soon as it appears in the shops it is snapped up. The manager of Civil's supermarket in St Ives said they were having to ration to make sure a steady flow was kept. In Cambridge sugar was not available at most supermarkets but Arbury Discount had enough for every customer to be allowed one bag.

1975 01 07

Frogs are in decline in the fens but are turning up in East Anglia towns disclosed A.S. Cook of the Monks Wood Experimental Station. "Traditional breeding grounds have disappeared because of changes in agricultural practice which has destroyed many natural habitats. Frogs have adapted by becoming more suburban than rural and shown a marked trend towards towns with places like St Ives becoming very frog-rich areas". The revival of the frog had occurred partly as a result of children bringing tadpoles from the rivers to their garden ponds

1975 03 24

Detailed recommendations aimed at presenting the town centres of St Neots, St Ives and Huntingdon from becoming "deserts" of industry and commerce – where no one lives – have been studied by Huntingdon district council. Up until the 1950s, the three town centres were mainly residential except for small cores of commerce. Even these had their high proportion of flats. Then came the dramatic expansion of the 1960s and 70s in housing with shops and offices following hard on its heels. Commercial activity forced out residential considerations and together with worsening traffic conditions the town centres gradually became less desirable places to live.

1975 06 19

Part of the historic town centre at St Ives was in ruins today after fire swept through 200-year-old timbered buildings causing more than £100,000 worth of damage. At least one of the buildings collapsed and others may have to be pulled down. The fire started in a workshop in Crown Yard and spread rapidly to Crown Street. Firemen were hampered by falling debris as centuries old timber beams cracked and walls buckled in the intense heat

1975 06 29

A glittering prize dangles within reach of Joe Bugner, of St Ives, tonight – the world heavyweight title. Bugner fights the legendary Muhammad Ali for the title – sport's richest prize in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The world will be Bugner's oyster if he pulls it off, but win, or lose, he will have achieved a dream in fighting Ali for the title. His mother, Mrs Marget Bugner said: "I think Joe will win. He is very clever now, older, wiser and more mature"

1975 07 04

Joe Bugner, sporting a black eye and a slimmer waistline after his unsuccessful bid at the World Heavyweight Boxing Championship returned to his home town of St Ives to a tumultuous welcome from hundreds of townsfolk. The Mayor told the crowd: "We are perhaps a little disappointed that Joe did not bring back the coveted award this time"

1975 07 16

St Ives based Sinclair Radionics Ltd, one of Europe's biggest manufacturers of pocket calculators has introduced a new model. The Scientific Programmable Calculator is aimed at scientists, students, engineers and statisticians. Initially it will be available only by mail order

1975 12 31

Living on a modern house on a St Ives estate just did not have enough character for Mr Peter Cracknell and his wife. So they have taken on the mammoth challenge of bring back to life a railway station at Bluntisham. Accommodation is not exactly tailor-made for a family at the moment. There is a booking hall, waiting room, a kitchen in a shed, a ticket office, three bedrooms, a yard and outbuildings. 'There aren't many houses with a platform at the bottom of the garden with a railway line as well. Most of our friends think we are crazy', he said.

1976 01 05

The St Ives boxer, Joe Bugner, former British, European and Commonwealth heavyweight champion, has retired from boxing at the age of 26. The 16-stone boxer is rated number four among the world's heavyweights. Bugner, who held his own with the best, began his eight-year career with a three-round knock-out defeat and ended it with a 15-round fight for the world title with Muhammad Ali. He said today: "Boxing was a sport which I never liked, but which I learned to love. The love died after the Ali fight".

1976 01 31

The old signal box on the Cambridge to St Ives railway line at Oakington was loaded on to a lorry and taken to the Bressingham Steam Museum near Diss. The box, one of the few remaining Great Eastern types dating back to the early 1900s, was bought several years ago by railway enthusiast Mr Mike Sharman, who lives at Foxton. However he ran into snags when he wanted to move the box to his home so he presented it to the museum.

1976 06 05

A cloak and dagger plan by the National Front to embarrass the Home Secretary, Mr Roy Jenkins, backfired. They had organised a protest by more than 60 people for his visit to St Ives – but he was not there. Four days ago he said he could not attend a Hunts In Europe dinner – but the National Front did not discover this until they arrived. They contented themselves with propaganda shouted over a loud-hailer

1976 07 02

A meeting of over 100 parents at Hemingford Grey threatened to bring St Ives traffic to a standstill if the County Council does not reverse its plan to end free buses for village children at St Ivo School. A manager said: "If we lose, not one vehicle will cross St Ives Bridge on the first day of next term. It would only take one person to stop traffic crossing the narrow bridge. There was derisory laughter when an Education officer rejected suggestions that the St Ives Bridge was dangerous to children crossing on bicycles. The effect of 200 children crossing the bridge was not yet known.

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1977 02 01

Men stripped to the waist are continuing a chicory drying process used at a Lakenheath factory 40 years ago. Mr John Fisher has brought Home Grown Chicory Ltd and turned it into a profit-making business, carrying on where the combine, Rank Hovis McDougall left off after three years. Farmers within a 20-mile radius grown about 400 acres of chicory a year – all of which when dried goes to a coffee plant at St Ives. More than 10 years ago the factory was handling three times the amount of acreage and Mr Fisher hopes to encourage farmers to grow more. The main alternative crop is sugar beet but chicory does not require any pest control whereas the sugar beet farmer has to pay several pounds an acre to protect his crop

1977 02 24

A train derailment has put a freight line from Cambridge to St Ives out of action. An engine pulling nine wagons left the rails at Fen Drayton. The train driver and guard escaped unhurt as the engine ground to a halt – leaning over only feet from a flooded field. One theory is that the recent flooding had loosened ballast under the rails, causing them to slip sideways. The line is used mainly to transport sand and gravel from the Amey Roadstone Corporation works to London and will disrupt shipments of thousands of tons of sand and gravel

1977 03 24

Drugs are part of the attraction that brings hundreds of teenagers flocking to an all-night disco held every month at the St Ivo Recreation Centre, St Ives. Police say they set up roadblocks and enough drugs had been seized from vehicles to supply all 800 youngsters at the disco. But the promoters say there is no indication of widespread drug abuse and all they have found is one tablet in the cloakrooms. It was the second biggest disco in England & they attracted 14-18 year olds from all over the South. He had once tried to run an all-night discotheque in Cambridge but had found drug taking was rife and wouldn't go back there because of the problem

1977 11 08

St Ives town centre needs a drastic facelift, say planners. There are 134 protected buildings in the centre but more than 50 buildings are in need of renovation and two major sites – Dolphin Yard and Crown Yard - are derelict and need rebuilding. The main proposals are a new shopping precinct at Crown Yard & pedestrianisation of White Hart Lane. A new bus terminus is proposed at the Cattle Market plus a large new shopping complex on the Sheep Market. One development above all will have a significant impact – the provision of a by-pass to the east.

1977 11 14

In 1975 St Ives Borough Council approved in outline the development of a shopping centre and office buildings at Crown Yard. They were asked to approve the demolition of the Jackdaw Boutique at the entrance, an old gymnasium and the music shop in the yard. These were among the buildings destroyed in a fire that summer. Coun. Fred Jennings observed that historically and aesthetically the buildings were important. "We do not want to repeat the mistake of Huntingdon where buildings of modern idiom are crying out among buildings of an older type", he said

1977 11 12

St Ives has more reason than most towns to be wary over the firemen's strike. When fire broke out in Crown Yard in the summer of 1975 it served as a grim reminder of past blazes. In 1680 a large part of the town was completely destroyed in a disastrous blaze and nine years earlier a fire started in a malthouse at the end of White Hart Lane, crossed the Market Place east of Bridge Street and destroyed all the houses to the river.

1978 01 06

The impact of the tornado which unleashed tremendous energy, sufficient to rip up fully-grown trees along the edge of Newmarket cemetery and fling them about like bowling pins, was almost identical to tornado activity which occurred in May 1950 & caused considerable damage around Sutton and

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blew over a double-decker bus. Tornado tracks were plotted from near Hemel Hempstead, through Bedford, St Ives, Earith, Sutton, Witcham and Coveney. Cambridgeshire is a good tornado and thunderstorm region. The 50-odd destructive tornadoes in the British Isle from 1868 to 1950 were the most numerous in the eastern lowlands of England.

1978 01 06

Four Cambridgeshire policemen are trying to get on the right beat as much as possible – even when they are not working. Off duty they make up “Copper Plate”, one of the few all-policemen music groups in the country. The group started when two members got to talking about music while in their patrol car. At the moment they are playing about one booking a month to audiences ranging from a village pantomime to more than 400 people at a dance in St Ives. One member said: “It sometimes surprises us that we actually manage to get together even for a practice, let alone a booking, with us all working different places and different shifts. We like to think of ourselves as being a versatile music and harmony group able to play anything from Beatles to barber’s shop”

1978 07 22

Cambridgeshire County Council is ‘giving away’ a 138-year-old thatched school at Hemingford Abbots. The school, which catered for 25 pupils, has been closed as an economy measure and because it was set up under a trust the building now returns to the descendants of the persons who set it up, the Herbert family. It was a sad moment for headmaster Mr Gordon Chambers as he said goodbye to the pupils, who will now go to Hemingford Grey School. But the closure will give hours of pleasure to other children for the school swimming pool is to be dismantled and taken to the Wheatfields School in St Ives.

1978 08 08

Considering the amount of rain that has fallen during the past few months, the impossible has happened – Anglian Water Authority ‘lost’ part of the River Ouse near St Ives. About a mile of the water between sluice gates at Hemingford and Houghton simply drained away and left boats high and dry. There are two sets of sluice gates which open and close automatically to control the river flow and they were both open to cope with the increased flow caused by the rain. But a large tree became stuck under one of the gates, preventing it from closing so the water flowed away until there was nothing but a trickle on the river bed.

1978 12 14

Work has started on a £2.2 million by-pass for St Ives which will relieve one of the major bottlenecks in the county – the 15th century bridge which spans the River Ouse. A new 25-span viaduct will carry the road across the river and adjoining flood plain and should be open by October 1980. Then the present bridge, which now carried about 10,000 vehicles a day, will be restricted to pedestrians, cyclists and service vehicles only.

1978 12 15

The East Anglian Railway Development Society urges the restoration of passenger trains on the Cambridge to St Ives line. Large domestic and industrial developments have taken place along the route and the new housing on the Arbury Road Estate would make for increased usage at Histon and even warrant a new halt in the Kings Hedges area. A Parkway station should be built to serve the Sawston area and Meldreth become the boarding point for Kings Cross trains.

1979 04 02

There isn’t much left of Swavesey station. The station house and offices are all gone, leaving just a few broken seats and a creeper-covered shelter to accommodate the traveller. The railway line which goes through to St Ives was shut to passengers on 3rd October 1970. Now the only trains to use it carry freight and aggregates from Fen Drayton, and oranges to Chivers’ factory at Histon. But on Saturday a ‘special’ was chartered from British Rail by the Cambridge Rail Action Group which wants to see passenger services restored. Every single ticket was sold within five days and nobody

complained when the train was a little late arriving and Swavesey Brownies were busy brewing up coffee for any day-trippers

1979 05 18

Niggling away in the minds of 1,500 people who work at the Cambridge Instrument Company and at Sinclair Radionics at St Ives is the question: "Will we still be here next week?" The two companies are part of the National Enterprise Board without whose contributions of public money both would certainly have gone to the wall in the last three years. Now Mrs Thatcher's new man for industry, Sir Keith Joseph is planning to restrict the NEB's activities. Sinclair's history has been one of total innovation. It was the first in the field with a pocket-sized electronic calculator, it made an all-new digital watch – plagued with technical problems - and the world's smallest television with a two-inch screen. But it made a £2 million loss last year. Both may disappear for good if the new Government pulls the financial rug out now.

1979 08 10

Clive Sinclair, the 38-year-old former electronics 'whizz-kid' who founded Sinclair Radionics when he was 21 has set up a new company, Sinclair Research. He hopes to develop a television with an extra-large flat screen the size of a normal home cine screen which would hang on the wall like a picture. He has previously developed miniature radio sets, pocket-sized electronic calculators and a mini-television which he manufactured at a factory at St Ives.

1979 11 13

Swynford Paddocks country-house hotel at Six Mile Bottom remains the best in Cambridgeshire according to a new Egon Ronay guide. The inspectors praised their 'huge baths, bubble bath and gigantic bath towels' as well as their 'international food with a homely touch'. The Old Bridge at Huntingdon, Bedford Lodge at Newmarket and Slepe Hall Hotel at St Ives also come in for praise. But restaurants fare worse, this year even the Hotel de la Poste at Swavesey has lost its single star and three have disappeared altogether – the Don Pasquale in Cambridge, Hunters Fen at Cottenham and The Chequers, Fowlmere

1980 03 24

Rail transport enthusiasts who want the Cambridge to St Ives branch line re-opened have hired a 10-coach Inter-City train. It will set off from Swavesey station and call at Longstanton, Oakington and Histon before running non-stop to Liverpool Street. The branch line closed to passengers in October 1970 but the track has been kept open by block freight trains carrying Spanish oranges and pulp to Cadburys at Histon and bringing out sand from Amey Roadstone. But the track has recently been lifted beyond Fen Drayton and the station site at St Ives has been obliterated by the new by-pass. 80 03 24

1980 10 07

One of the most dramatically effective road works, the St Ives by-pass which provides the first new crossing of the Great Ouse since the 15th-century, sweeps round the town partially using the track of the old St Ives to March railway line. It will carry virtually all the vehicles presently queuing to cross the medieval stone bridge which has been the worst bottleneck in the Cambridgeshire road system. Now it will be closed and the average flow of 11,000 vehicles a day will dwindle to around 500. 80 10 07a

1981 03 13

Services on the Cambridge to St Ives railway line stopped in October 1970 and researchers want to assess the effects of the closure. But they had difficulty tracking down former users, because of the mobility of the Ouse valley towns. The line closed because the populations they served were small and used trains infrequently; in winter they carried only 10 to 20 passengers, most for non-food shopping or visiting families. Most switched to buses which took between 35-79 minutes for the journey, compared to 27 minutes by train. 81 03 13

1981 05 15

Cambridge ecologists say a bus which can run on railway lines is the solution to transport problems in local villages. They plan to borrow a prototype and run it from the city centre to Huntingdon, using British Rail's tracks. It would stop at Mill Road, Chesterton and North Arbury as well as the former stations en route to Swavesey. From this point the tracks have been removed but it would run along the trackbed to St Ives and the Hemingfords. 81 05 15a

1981 09 17

A young walrus has swum into the Earith-St Ives area. The saga began when keepers from Skegness zoo helped return the stranded creature to the sea. It was next seen in the Wash by bargemen at King's Lynn but attempts by a conservancy vessel to head off its trip into the fens proved unsuccessful. It has eluded an air-sea rescue helicopter on the River Ouse and the RSPCA is still trying to locate it. It is believed to be the first report of a walrus in Britain since 1954. 81 09 17b, 81 09 18a

1982 01 27

The local retail market has survived the recession so far. Ekins have disposed of four shops on the St Neots Market Square which were formerly occupied by Boots, R & E Cadge, Presslands and Falford Books. Developments by St Ives Free Church at Market Hill and at Club Mews Ely have provided 20 shop units, all of which have been let. But in Cambridge increased rents have led to a number changing hands. 82 01 27

1982 06 09

Jockey Wilson completely outclassed 17 of the best darts players in Cambridgeshire last night – but lost to his only woman opponent. The world professional champion, an amiable bullfrog of a man, swept aside the hopeful amateurs in his exhibition series at the St Ivo recreation centre. But he was still trying for his double out when Anne Haynes, who plays for the Black Bull pub at St Ives, sent game shot flashing across the electronic scoreboard. However Jockey had given her 300 start while he attempted to get down from 1,001 scoring only with bulls and 25's! 82 06 09a

1982 08 05

According to legend St Ives was named after St Ivo, a Persian missionary bishop whose remains were found in 1,000. Doubts have been cast on the authenticity of the relics and deepened when Roman remains were found on the ancient site near Priory House. But now a new excavation has revealed bits of plaster which could only have been used in a villa. So it seems he was simply the owner of a Roman house. 82 08 05

1982 12 31

Cambridge United, Joe Bugner and Mildenhall speedway all face tough tests in 1983. At the Abbey Stadium United are struggling to protect their Second Division status with the lowest home attendance and the worst away record in the Football League. Joe Bugner left St Ives in a failed attempt to swap his boxing gloves for the greasepaint in Hollywood. Now the big man is back with a couple of knockout victories. Meanwhile the Fen Tigers have built a stadium, won the championship and now want to bring world stars to West Row. 82 12 31

1983 08 09

The truck trade has gone through a traumatic shake-up in recent years. Firms have been merged or disappeared as their struggle for survival intensified in an atmosphere of intense competition. It speaks much for the tenacity and durability of Ouse Valley Motors of St Ives that they are emerging as a power to be reckoned with in the business. The firm has a history going back 60 years and a staff of more than 80 people, many with more than 25 years' service. They pride themselves on being a local firm and are expecting to see trade increase. 83 08 09 suppl p2

1983 12 02

Householders at St Ives have risked turning their homes into bombs by not heeding gas engineer's warnings. Gas Board staff mounted a massive operation last night, visiting thousands of homes telling www.mikepetty.org.uk bit.ly/mikepetty13a

people to switch off their supplies because of a fault. But despite this some people still used gas, endangering their own lives and those of their neighbours. Cooking rings and fan heaters have been handed out and a WVS soup kitchen set up in the Corn Exchange. 83 12 02 p1

1984 10 31

Gaynes Hall, an 18th-century mansion at West Perry which until recently was a borstal, is to become headquarters of AIM Cambridge, the St Ives high-technology consulting firm. AIM, which was formed as part of the Tek group in 1974, is currently recruiting new staff and hopes to have more than 100 by the end of 1987. They hired a coach to show its St Ives staff the new headquarters and the response was overwhelming. People are very enthusiastic about the move. 84 10 31

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1985 01 10

Experts at Voice Input, a small company at St Ives have become one of the world leaders in voice control computer programming. It can direct a computer to turn the TV on and off, dial telephone numbers, print letters, speak foreign languages or just open and close the curtains. The firm hope to have a table-top micro-processor with inbuilt microphone and voice recognition equipment ready by April and forecast a mini office revolution with a semi-automatic typewriter which will type a letter as it is spoken. 85 01 10d

1985 01 31

St Ives Pakistani community fight for Mosque – 85 01 31a

1986 05 06

St Ives Corn Exchange might be on the market. The building, which fronts the Market Square, comprises a large hall, kitchen, a lounge bar and the Cromwell Room. It is used for civic functions, wedding receptions and sales. St Ives Town Council, which spent £100,000 refurbishing it a decade ago, are seeking advice as to its value. London property consultants think it could be turned into a shop and offices. 86 05 06

1986 06 02

A competition to find the typist with the quickest fingers and the least mistakes on her paper attracted hundreds of entrants. There was one moment of drama when a typewriter suddenly went wrong, but it was quickly put right. Then they were away – not the click, click of the old, manual typewriters but the tap, tap of the modern electric keys as the typists beavered furiously at their test piece. The winner was Gillian Turton of St Ives with an amazing score of 90 words per minute. Runners up were Paula Carter and Ruth Purdue 86 06 02 & a

1986 06 26

The old St Ives railway may be dug up and part of the route turned into a new main road to provide direct access for people living in the proposed new village for 3,000 people near Swavesey. British Rail is unenthusiastic about reopening the line without county or private investment. But the County

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Council has already turned down the suggestion of financial involvement and says it would make more sense for the railway to be dug up and replaced with a main road. 86 06 26a

1986 08 27

British Rail may build new stations near Cambridge and Huntingdon as part of a modernisation scheme. A county transportation spokesman called for stations at Milton and at new villages near Waterbeach and Swavesey which are under consideration in the Structure Plan review. He'd also like to see the St Ives to Cambridge line re-opened and a stop at Milton would help to service the Science Park as well. This was endorsed by the Railway Development Society who also suggested stations at North Arbury and Cherry Hinton. 86 08 27

1986 11 22

Two masked robbers burst into Ellington post office and stole £1,300 in cash after threatening the sub-postmistress with a shotgun. The thieves, one of whom wore a stocking over his head, fled in a bronze-coloured Ford Cortina that had been stolen from St Ives and was later abandoned at Grafham Water. Police say it is a copy of other recent robberies at Fen Ditton and Haslingfield 86 11 22

1986 12 24

Father Christmas will have his work cut out to satisfy the child of 1986. Gone are the days when a simple doll or toy gun would do. When asked, Lynsey Bullivant wanted a toy pound puppy because they look so sad, Claire Boydell of St Ives hoped for a trip to watch ice-skaters Torvill and Dean in action and Richard Burton of Willingham wanted a cup win for Cambridge United. Caroline Robinson of Cambridge wrote to Santa: "I am trying to be good. I know you were in my chimney pot because you kicked some soot down" 86 12 24a

1987 09 18

The Cambridge - St Ives railway line could be reopened to passengers and linked with Stansted as part of a major new project. The service, shut for nearly 20 years, would be launched with a show-piece electric service along the 14-mile line which is at present only used by freight trains. There would be three new stations at the Science Park, Coldham's Lane and Long Road. Other stations would be built or reopened, under plans announced by the County council, including Chittering, Fulbourn and Cherry Hinton. 87 09 18a

1987 10 09

Railway line to St Ives & Soham station may be reopened – 87 10 09

1987 10 27

An overhead cable car system between St Ives and Cambridge has been suggested by the Willingham-based Alternative Transport Society as an alternative option to a rail link. There would be a lack of noise and fumes and cables would be high enough over level crossings, eliminating congestion. It would have simple platforms for alighting with cars slowed automatically by computer control and the total all-weather system would ensure safe and reliable transport. But opponents describe it as a non-starter and just pie in the sky. 87 10 27b

1987 11 27

Anson Packaging's new £1.5 million extension to its production space was opened by the Mayor of Ely, Coun. Margaret Gordon-Potts. The firm, which started in 1971 at St Ives with 12 staff, moved to the site of the former Haddenham railway station in 1977. It now operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and employs 300 people. They are a leading producer of thermoformed plastic packaging for the food trade and an approved supplier to Marks & Spencer 87 11 27

1987 12 03

Cambridge has never offered a better selection of eating establishments according to three food guides. Midsummer House, opened last year, features in all of them but Twenty-Two on Chesterton Road provides probably the best food in Cambridge. The Free Press serves some of the best pub food

in East Anglia while the Shao Tao is smarter than the average provincial Chinese restaurant. Outside Cambridge there is praise for the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, Fenland Lodge at Stuntney and the St Ives Motel. 87 12 03a

1988 02 17

Three new railway stations at Cherry Hinton, Fulbourn and the Chittering area have been suggested in a County council report. But stations at Harston, Offord and Soham have been rejected on grounds of cost. British Rail plans to build a new 'parkway' station to the north of Cambridge to meet growing commuter passenger growth. But calls to re-open the Cambridge to St Ives freight line to passengers are firmly ruled out. It would cost £4.84 million, greatly outweighing potential income, consultants say 88 02 17

1988 02 29

Terrified householders, some in their night clothes, were evacuated when fire ripped through a St Ives firm, causing a major gas alert. Ambulance men ferried East Street residents to the police station after the F. Wilson printing company burst into flames. At the height of the blaze part of the timber building collapsed into the street, scattering burning debris. The main building was razed to the ground but today production was continuing with other printers offering help. 88 02 29

1988 06 10

The final phase of Huntingdon northern bypass opened five months ahead of schedule. The stretch from Hartford to St Ives is part of the £5 million scheme which saw the Spittals roundabout section completed in 1980, allowing industrial growth west of the railway in Huntingdon. The contractors also had to build a railway bridge across the east coast main line. An estimated 14,000 vehicles will use the bypass each year. 88 06 10

1986 06 11

Policemen injured during fights when youths ejected from St Ives Corn Exchange – 88 06 11

1989 04 01

An old village fire engine which used to protect the villagers of Earith in the middle of the 18th century has been stored in a shed at the Norris Museum, St Ives, since 1936 because it will not fit inside. Now a conservation expert is to examine the Newsham pump to see if it is worth renovating. Curator Bob Burn-Murdoch says it appears to be in good condition, though some of the wood is rotten. A team of villagers would have dragged the pump to the fire then six or eight men would have operated the handles. 89 04 01

1989 08 22

Business is booming in some local pubs. The Volunteer in Trumpington has seen a 20 per cent increase in turnover since all-day opening was introduced a year ago. They get a lot of business people in for long lunches and often folk call in on their way from work. Tourists also take advantage of the afternoon opening. The White Hart at St Ives also reports many businessmen drinking in the afternoon. The Spade and Becket, Thompson's Lane says they may follow suit as people are queuing outside the doors from five o'clock. 89 08 22

1989 10 04

Jim Paice, MP, has launched a bid to reopen the Cambridge to St Ives branch railway and extend it to link with the East Coast main line at Huntingdon. He says it could reduce traffic on the heavily-congested A604. Enthusiasts packed British Rail 'specials' up and down the 14-mile line which is normally used by just one freight train a day carrying mineral workings from Fen Drayton; it is also used occasionally by Chivers jam company. 89 10 04b

1990 04 28

Business park bringing 3,000 jobs launched at Eden Park by St Ives interchange on A604 – 90 04 28a